

Hafa Adai!

'CNMI opening to tourists amid pandemic is no cakewalk' PAGE 2

Lawmakers want to override Torres' veto on OMB transfer. PAGE 7

75¢

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Workers want IPI funds unfrozen

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Hundreds of Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC workers stopped working yesterday to stage a peaceful protest in front of the Horiguchi Building
See WORKERS on Page 4

RELATED NEWS

► Taiwanese workers just want to finish casino/resort project.
PAGE 3

Workers of Pacific International (CNMI) LLC stage a peaceful protest in front of the Horiguchi Building in Garapan yesterday to demand that the court lift the freeze on IPI's bank accounts so they get their two paychecks. Some workers have also a petitioned to disqualify District Court Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona from handling IPI lawsuits.
FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Just 1 active case at Kanoa

AT A GLANCE

As of 6pm, June 22, 2020

GUAM	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	200	22	222*
Recovered	173	0	173
Active	22	22	44**
Deaths	6*	0	6*
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested		10,415	

SAIPAN	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	30	0	30
Active	5	-4	1
Deaths	2	0	2
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested***		8,169	

*Total includes a sailor from the USS Theodore Roosevelt.

**Total of positive and active cases includes 15 cases of COVID-19 that have been identified among service members in a unit deployed to Andersen Air Force Base.

***Total includes the number of persons tested on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Health Care Corp.

By **JUSTINE NAUTA**
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REPORTER

A week and a half has passed since the CNMI has had a new COVID-19 case. Also, four individuals who were admitted into

the isolation site at Kanoa Resort in Susupe have been released, leaving only one active case in the facility.

According to Esther Muña, the Commonwealth Health-care Corp. chief executive officer, there is now only one

person in the facility.

Last June 18, there were five active cases, Muña said.

See KANOA on Page 4

House panel to discuss OT docs today

By **IVA MAURIN**
iva_maurin@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The House of Representatives Special Committee on Federal Assistance and Disaster Related Funding received last Friday documents related to overtime requests and payments received by Cabinet members, incurred under the CNMI government's COVID-19

See HOUSE on Page 4



Rep. Ralph Yumul (R-Saipan), who chairs the House Special Committee on Federal Assistance and Disaster Related Funding, looks through documents related to overtime requests and payments under the CNMI government's COVID-19 operations. The House committee will be discussing the documents this afternoon at the Legislature on Capital Hill.

IVA MAURIN

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:

- Red: Least safe
- Orange
- Yellow
- Blue
- Green: Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

'Congress needed to extend PUA benefits to CWs'

By **IVA MAURIN**
iva_maurin@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Congressional action is needed to extend federal unemployment assistance to foreign workers in the CNMI.

In a letter dated June 15, Labor Secretary Vicky Benavente-See **CONGRESS on Page 4**

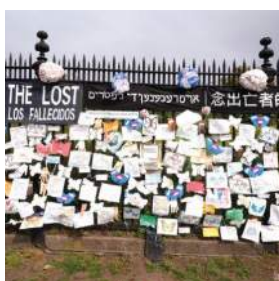
INSIDE



BUSINESS

Saipan Snaps cookies has remained open to offer delicious locally made products.

PAGE 11



NATION

Second wave of coronavirus cases? Experts say we're still in the first wave.

PAGE 12



ASIA

China says it may enact the Hong Kong security law at the end of June.

PAGE 13



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Local

‘CNMI opening to tourists amid pandemic is no cakewalk’

By BEA CABRERA
beacabrersaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

The CNMI transitioning to Community Vulnerability Level Blue means that the islands are a step away to going to and resetting everything back to pre-COVID-19 times. Reaching this level means availability of more economic activities like partially welcoming international flights, lessening curfew hours, and increasing building occupancy capacity from 25% to 75%, in tune with the CNMI government's goal of reopening the islands to tourists come July 15. But are we ready?



Cavanagh

of course, is the mandatory quarantine for both the CNMI as well as the source market,” said Gloria Cavanagh, who is the general manager of Pacific Islands Club Saipan and chairperson of the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands.

“Opening our borders and expecting tourists are two very different things. Before tourist are able to consider coming, both governments need to agree on what each will require for travelers. For instance, as long as South Korea still requires a 14-day quarantine upon the travelers’ return, very few to no visitors would likely be traveling to a foreign destination,” she said.

As for the CNMI’s source markets for tourists, Cavanagh said Korean tourists will likely be back first. “We are hoping to have Japan afterwards and China will probably not be until the end of the year or early next year. ...The CNMI government cannot have a mandatory quarantine if they expect



File photo shows tourists enjoying a day of fun on Managaha Island.

BEA CABRERA

visitors to come...”

The opening of tourism amidst a pandemic is going to require some sort of agreement or understanding by both the CNMI government and the source country government. It may also require certain restrictions on airlines, like social distancing.

“Based on the requirements

for traveling by both governments, this will determine if there is any demand. ...At Pacific Islands Club, we currently have a very few reservations on the book but these are being cancelled as the airlines are cancelling flights,” she added.

To date, only three hotels are operational in the CNMI

in terms of accommodations. Pacific Island Club in San Antonio and Kanoa Resort in Susupe are being used as quarantine sites, while Hyatt Regency Saipan in Garapan is accepting room reservations only for Federal Emergency Management Agency officers and personnel and several contractors. Restaurants are

slowly opening for take-out and dine-in services, but on limited hours, like in the case of Hyatt and Aqua Resort Club in Achugao.

“This has hit our economy drastically and there are no hotels that are doing well. ...We are all looking at tens of millions of dollars lost for the year. There will probably be no such thing as ‘normal operations’ until a vaccine. Meanwhile, we are all dealing with protocols for opening, such as purchasing mitigation supplies like thermal scanners/thermometers, facial masks, gloves, social distancing stickers, hospital grade disinfection supplies, plexiglass barriers, and such,” Cavanagh said.

“We are rewriting our normal processes for check-in, for airport pick up, for room cleaning and public area cleaning, for restaurants, and so on. We do not really expect flights—or if there are, there would be very few—in July and into August. I am sure that there might be discussions about whether to even open or to open with limited services,” Cavanagh added.

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Saipan Tribune

Guam launches website
Saipan launches website
Saipan launches website

Taiwanese workers just want to finish casino/resort project

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_deltorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Taiwanese workers with H-2B visas were joined by three former employees of Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC's former contractor, Pacific Rim Land Development LLC, in a press briefing last Friday to disclose a planned protest demonstration yesterday, Monday, in front of the federal court to raise some issues with their employment.

The Taiwanese workers pointed out that their teams "corrected" many "mistakes" of the contractor and subcontractor at IPI's casino/resort in Garapan, but that they are not blaming anyone as all they all want is to finish the project.

Ke-Shih Yang, who is among the remaining 104 Taiwanese H-2B visa workers hired by IPI, said they are not blaming Pacific Rim Land Development or its subcontractor, JSMI, or IPI, because they are here just to work.

Three former Pacific Rim workers—David Santos, Trina Rahman, and Eddie Moni—who joined Yang and four other IPI Taiwanese workers at IPI's office at Vestcor on Capital Hill last Friday afternoon, complained that Pacific Rim just laid them off two



Three former Pacific Rim Land Development LLC employees join four Taiwanese workers of the Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC during a press conference in IPI's office at Vestcor on Capital Hill Friday afternoon.

years ago without telling them the reason. As of press time Friday, *Saipan Tribune* was still awaiting comments from Pacific Rim, which is suing IPI and five unnamed alleged co-conspirators for not being paid for work done at the casino. IPI has countersued Pacific Rim.

Pacific Rim has already obtained a \$6.9-million judg-

ment from the District Court against IPI.

At a press conference Friday, Yang said they have been working hard with the project for two years now and that they don't want to leave it unfinished.

Yang said when they (Taiwanese workers) came on Saipan after IPI hired them two years ago to replace the

Chinese workers, the façade of the casino/resort was only 35% done. He said they then worked with Pacific Rim and its subcontractor, JSMI, to fix some problems in the construction work. He said Taiwanese workers actually work well with workers of different nationalities, as well as with local workers, at the project.

Yang said they don't know

the problems between Pacific Rim and IPI but completing the project would be good for the people of Saipan and the economy. "We're just here to try to fix the problem," he

said, citing one problem area is the wirings. "JMSI was doing good, we're working together. We're having teamwork," he said.

See **TAIWANESE** on Page 4

Fam time. fun time

[WEEKEND PROMO]

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Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BID
CUC-IFB-20-022

S-5 AND S-9 SEWER LIFT STATION RENOVATION

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the S-5 and S-9 Sewer Lift Station Renovation project in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project consists of the renovation of the existing S-5 and S-9 sewer lift stations, including the renovation of the existing generator building and wet well with all new piping, fittings, pumps, generator, and other equipment and appurtenance. The project also includes the installation of a new S-5 forcemain and forcemain inlet structure, the relocation of the existing Hyatt Hotel sewer forcemain to an existing sewer manhole on Coral Tree Avenue, the installation of a new S-9 upstream sewer manhole and gravity main crossing route 308. The work shall be done in accordance with the Project Plans and Specifications and without disruption to the daily operation of the sewer system. CUC requires the Project to be completed in 300 calendar days from date of award of contract.

The project is funded by a grant from the United States of Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of approval for project award from USEPA.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$200.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by site visits will be held on **June 18, 2020 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Five (5) copies of the bid MUST be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC-IFB-20-022, S-5 and S-9 Sewer Lift Station Renovation"** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) July 2, 2020, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time.

Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement this form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. **Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.**

A *Bid Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 a.m. (ChST) on June 22, 2020** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Officer via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org, with a copy to Nicolette Villagomez, CUC Water & Wastewater, Engineer – nicolette.villagomez@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio, CUC P&S, Administrative Support Assistant – marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

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INVITATION TO BID
ITB20-GOV- 079

Rota Infrastructure Maintenance Project – Renovation of the Rota Department of Public Safety's Operations and Administration Buildings

Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lt. Governor Arnold I. Palacios, through the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) are soliciting sealed bids for the *Rota Infrastructure Maintenance Project – Renovation of the Rota Department of Public Safety's Operations and Administration Buildings* in Songsong Village, Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI). This project will be funded by the 702 Covenant funding under the U.S. Department of Interior, Office of Insular Affairs.

The project package will be available on **June 22, 2020** at the CIP Program Office, Office of the Governor, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building in Capitol Hill, Saipan. **All interested bidders are required to include an Insurer Certification Clearance (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC should be obtained at the Department of Commerce, Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) at Capitol Hill.**

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations currently in effect and with the Northern Mariana Islands Administrative Code (NMIAC) §70.30.3-725 Gratuities and Kickbacks and §70.30.3-730 Prohibition Against Contingent Fees. All wage rates for employees performing the work, labor and services on this project shall be paid at the current U.S. prevailing wage rates established for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

There will be a pre-bid conference on July 8, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. at the project site in Songsong Village, Rota. Questions concerning this project shall be directed to Vida Marie DeLeon Guerrero in writing by e-mail vidamarie.cip@gmail.com, on or before **July 13, 2020** to the Capital Improvement Program, Office of the Governor, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, or fax (670) 664-2408. All responses to inquiries will be shared with all prospective bidders.

Sealed bids must be marked **ITB20-GOV-079 Rota Infrastructure Maintenance Project – Renovation of the Rota Department of Public Safety's Operations and Administration Buildings**. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply located at the former Emergency Management Office, Building No. 1301, Ascension Drive, Capitol Hill on Saipan no later than **10:30 a.m. ChST, July 22, 2020**. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to Bid. Notices of Intent to Bid must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than **10:30 a.m. ChST, July 22, 2020** and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to amagofma@dof.gov.mp. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **July 22, 2020** and mailed to the Acting Director of Procurement and Supply at P.O.Box 510008 C.K., Saipan, MP 96950 and the bid documents must be received no later than **July 31, 2020**. Failure to submit the required number of copies may cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly open and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Building No. 1301, Ascension Drive, Capitol Hill on Saipan at **10:30 a.m. ChST, August 3, 2020**. However, if no notices of intent to bid are received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be open at **10:30 a.m. ChST, July 22, 2020**.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00) a bid security of fifteen percent (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. Bid security shall be on a bid bond, in cash, by certified check, cashier's check or other form acceptable to the government. A surety company shall hold the certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check. If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 70-30.3-245. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than \$25,000.00.

Prior to the execution of the contract, the selected contractor shall submit:

- a) A current license from the bonding company showing that it has authority to issue bond in the CNMI, and
- b) A certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments on other bond obligations) exceeds the penal amount of each bond.

A contractor submitting an unacceptable payment or performance bond may be permitted a reasonable time, as determined by the P&S Director, to substitute an acceptable bond prior to executing a contract. Acceptable assets are only:

- 1) Cash
- 2) US Government Securities
- 3) Stocks and Bonds traded on US Security Exchange
- 4) Real Property owned in fee simple in US; and
- 5) Irrevocable Letters of Credit

Performance time for completion of this project is Three Hundred (300) calendar days upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. The daily amount of liquidated damages shall be \$200.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

BREACH OF ETHICAL STANDARDS
(To be part of Solicitation for quotes, ITBs and RFPS)

- **Gratuities.** It shall be a breach of ethical standards for any person to offer, give or agree to give any employee or former employee, or for any employee or former employee to solicit, demand, accept or agree to accept from another person, a gratuity or an offer of employment in connection with any decision, approval, disapproval, recommendation, preparation of any part of a program requirement or a purchase request, influencing the content of any specification or procurement standard, rendering of advice, investigation, auditing or in any other advisory capacity in any proceeding or application, request for ruling, determination, claim or controversy, or other particular matter, pertaining to any program requirement or a contract or subcontract or to any solicitation or proposal therefor. NMIAC Section 70-30.3-725(a).
- **Kickbacks.** It shall be a breach of ethical standards for any payment, gratuity or offer of employment to be made by or on behalf of a subcontractor under a contract to the prime contractor or higher tier subcontractor or any person associated therewith as an inducement for the award of subcontract or order. NMIAC Section 70-30.3-725(b).
- **Contingent Fees.** It shall be a breach of ethical standards for a person to be retained, or to retain a person, to solicit or secure government contracts upon an agreement or understanding for a commission, percentage, brokerage or contingent fee, except for retention of bona fide employees or bona fide established commercial selling agencies for the purpose of securing business. NMIAC Section 70-30.3-730.

Ralph DLG. Torres
Governor

Francisco C. Aguin
Acting Director, CNMI Procurement & Supply

WORKERS

From Page 1

in Garapan where the U.S. District Court for the NMI is located as banks refused to accept their paychecks, apparently after the court froze IPI's bank accounts.

IPI management staff, local residents, and Filipino workers being furloughed joined construction workers who are mostly Turkish, Mongolians, Italians, and Taiwanese at the rally.

The workers started converging in the parking lot of Kristo Rai Church across the Horiguchi Building shortly before 10am. Many were holding up placards and streamers that read: "Open back the IPI bank account" and "We want to get paid (sic)."

Some of the protesting workers were also soliciting signatures for a petition that wants U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona to be replaced from presiding over lawsuits against IPI.

The petition stated that they were shocked to see Manglona enter the writ of execution in connection with Pacific Rim Land Develop-

ment LLC's lawsuit against IPI and freeze all IPI accounts before reviewing all of IPI's evidence and considering IPI's defense.

During the current pandemic, the petition said, business throughout the world have suffered, yet IPI had been trying hard to meet its corporate responsibilities and sought all venues to ensure that payrolls are paid to its employees.

The petition calls to replace Manglona in all IPI matters and restore IPI's payrolls accounts, and to "bring justice back to IPI," citing what it describes as Manglona's recent judgments and orders against IPI that it described as "biased." As a result of one of these orders, the payroll accounts of IPI have been frozen, creating a major factor of unrest among the workers, the petition said.

The petition said that Pacific Rim had been using general laborers to make up for skilled workers, and fraudulently obtained overinflated labor fees and management fees from IPI. Pacific Rim has denied this allegation.

The petition urged the Office of the Attorney General, Department of Public Safety, and other federal and local agencies to investigate Pacific Rim.

After about an hour, the workers proceeded to the CNMI Department of Labor in Capital Hill to continue their protest. At 10:40am, the workers boarded buses and their personal vehicles and proceeded to Capital Hill.

At the Labor Department office, Labor Secretary Vicky Benavente met and talked with IPI senior vice president Tao Xing, IPI's senior vice president for Security and Surveillance Donald Browne, and IPI's Human Resources director Redie Dela Cruz. After the meeting, Dela Cruz explained to some workers, who acted as leaders of their respective teams, as to what happened during their talks with Benavente. The workers later dispersed.

Dela Cruz said in a later interview that Benavente heard the employees concerns, and that she stated she would need to consult with the Torres-Palacios administration and U.S. Department of Labor and then she (Benavente) will issue a statement.

Dela Cruz said the concern is the IPI payroll. With the U.S. district court seizing IPI's bank accounts, they have not been able to meet payroll for two periods, he added. Dela Cruz said IPI wants to pay its employees but that they don't have other

avenues to do so.

"We're looking at every option that's available to us, or every resource that we can tap to see how to get our employees paid. And that's the bottom line," she said.

Even local employees who have been furloughed came to support their colleagues who are actively working, she added.

She said if IPI goes back into business, it's also going to affect those furloughed as well. "So everyone actively working and furloughed have come together to see if we can bring [this matter] to the immediate attention of anyone...who can help us just try to get some advocacy as far as payroll [is concerned]," Dela Cruz said.

Construction of IPI's casino-resort stopped yesterday as everyone joined the protest. "Everyone feels that this

is an important thing to bring up. If most of the construction employees are here, it has halted operations to some degree," she added.

Dela Cruz said she has no answer to the question whether construction will resume today, Tuesday.

A resident employee who requested anonymity said the issue is one month of payroll and that they just want to be paid. He said he joined the protest to support the workers' cause—to have someone open up IPI's accounts so the employees can get paid. "The court closed the accounts. ...Ever since they did that, we don't get paid," he added. He said IPI actually paid better than his previous government job.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

HOUSE

From Page 1

emergency and response.

Committee chair Rep. Ralph Yumul (R-Saipan) showed *Saipan Tribune* some of the documents, which will be discussed more thoroughly during the committee's meeting on Capital Hill this afternoon.

Pressed for information whether the documents show that members of the Cabinet have gotten overtime payments, Yumul said that he cannot comment on the details

yet, but that he went over the documents with House lawyers and Rep. Tina Sablan (D-Saipan) yesterday morning.

"Apparently, what was mentioned in the media is not what it says, like saying no Cabinet members were paid," Yumul hinted. "Apparently, the Cabinet members are being paid. They have not filed for reimbursement yet. I don't know if FEMA [Federal Emergency Management Agency] will approve it but it's local funding for now."

The documents received showed files from Pay Period 8 to Pay Period 12.

Earlier this month, the House Special Committee asked Patrick Guerrero, the Governor's Authorized Representative, to furnish them with documents and a complete list of all government employees receiving overtime payment related to the COVID-19 operations.

In an earlier interview, Yumul said his committee's first step is to gather information. Now that they have the overtime documents, the lawmakers will go over the files, and if discrepancies are found, involved agencies will be called in, on record, to explain.

KANOA

From Page 1

But as of yesterday, June 22, there is now only one active case at the isolation facility.

As for the new quarantine procedures, especially for those arriving from off-island, residents have many unanswered questions: "For those who are quarantined at home, must they stay where they are or can they leave but still take the extra precautions?" or "Will CHCC will be monitoring those who are in home quarantine?"

For one, Muña said that CHCC is not a monitoring agency and that role is for be the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force.

Warren Villagomez, who chairs the task force, said the new quarantine procedure will rely on mutual trust, where the task force will build trust in the community, specifically those who are in home quarantine, since passengers who are arriving on Saipan will be enrolled in the Sara Alert system, in coordination with the Department of Public Safety, CHCC, and Bureau of Environmental Health.

Villagomez added that there is a geo-mapping portion of the Sara

Alert database that identifies where an individual who is enrolled in it is. Additionally, when passengers enter the CNMI, they will go through a verification process to reassure that they (passengers) understand the quarantine policies and procedures.

"It's accurate. It's a Global Positioning System, so in the event that you don't report to your appointment date or you're reported that you're supposed to be in home quarantine and you're not, we will see that," said Villagomez. This process is being expanded to Rota and Tinian.

According to the quarantine procedure for all individual entering the CNMI, residents who don't show up for the specimen collection appointment will be charged \$500 and brought to the designated isolation site by DPS for their specimen collection and isolation while waiting for their results.

"It's a personal responsibility to make sure your loved ones are safe and that they or you don't spread [any infection] to them," said Muña.

To date, the CNMI has a total of 30 confirmed COVID-19 cases, with one active case and two deaths.

COVID-19 in Guam

The Department of Public Health and Social Services in Guam tested 273

individuals for COVID-19 last June 19 with conclusive results. Zero tested positive and 273 tested negative.

Seven additional cases tested positive for COVID-19 through the Department of Defense. According to the Joint Information Center in Guam, 15 cases of COVID-19 have been identified among service members in a unit deployed to Andersen Air Force Base since last June 12. All service members assigned to the unit were placed in isolation and have since been relocated to Anderson AFB where they are under medical observation.

"Restriction of movement procedures are enforced to those self-quarantining and Andersen AFB is working to test all members of the deployed unit. Andersen AFB, working with DPHSS, continues to conduct contact tracing," said the JIC statement.

Additionally, the JIC stated that the Andersen AFB is complying with all DoD travel restrictions and clearance processes and is committed to ensuring the health and safety of all service members, civilians, families, and the community.

To date, Guam has a total of 200 confirmed cases with five deaths, 173 released from isolation, and 22 active cases.

TAIWANESE

From Page 3

Yang said IPI hired H-2B visa workers from Taiwan in 2018 because they needed skilled workers. "We spend (sic) two years here now. We try our best to finish the project. Safety is always first," he said.

Yang said the project is actually above the standard. "For us workers, we just try to do our part. We have many friends at JSMI and Pacific Rim," he said.

Yang said their salary, like with the local workers, is sometimes delayed but they all get paid eventually. Yet even with delayed paychecks, Yang said they continue working so they can finish the project and go back to their families in Taiwan. When international flights resume, probably 25 Taiwanese workers would leave because of delayed salary problems,

he added.

Santos said he was hired as a welder at \$12 per hour when he was supposed to get \$22 an hour. He said he worked as a welder for one month and was later told that he's rehired as a labor worker.

Rahman said she worked with Pacific Rim as a laborer at \$9 per hour. Rahman said that more than 200 of them, including those from Guam, were hired, then laid off only after a few months. "They never gave us notice not told us the reason," she said. Rahman said Pacific Rim still owes her \$275 per diem.

Rahman said Pacific Rim promised them that they would work on the IPI project on Saipan for five years, but the company laid them off after only seven months. She is thankful that she got a job with another company. "We were laid off, but were not told why. We left our family [in Guam], that's how we get treated?" she said.

CONGRESS

From Page 1

te informed Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) of the need to pass legislation to make the contract workers in the CNMI, also called CNMI-Only Transitional Workers, eligible for Pandemic Unemployment Assistance and the Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation benefits.

The eligibility of CWs to receive both PUA and FPUC have been a point of discussions, according to the Labor secretary, who said the department and Gov. Ralph DLG Torres have been pushing to expand eligibility of the federal benefits to the transitional workers.

"However, considering the CARES Act is silent on any exceptions for CNMI-Only Transitional Workers, our federal counterparts have found no reading of the law that would create an exception in the territories from the 'qualified aliens' requirement," said Benavente. "Accordingly, based on applicable law, eligibility of PUA and FPUC benefits are limited to U.S. citizens, U.S. nationals, and qualified aliens."

Benavente also informed the delegate of the applicable laws and guidance the CNMI Department of Labor has received from its federal coun-

terpart, adding that "similar to the Disaster Unemployment Assistance, PUA and PPUC are federal public benefits...and that, based on the law, an alien who is not a qualified alien... is not eligible for any federal public benefit."

She further stated that pursuant to law, the term "qualified alien" is an alien admitted for permanent residence under the Immigration and Nationality Act; an alien granted asylum; or a refugee admitted to the U.S.

A "qualified alien" also includes an alien paroled into the U.S. for at least one year; an alien whose deportation is being withheld or whose removal is being withheld; or an alien granted conditional entry.

Further, a "qualified alien" is an alien who is a Cuban or Haitian; or an alien who (or whose child or parent) has been battered or subject to extreme cruelty.

"While state agencies administering the PUA and FPUC benefits are charged with the responsibility to make determinations on eligibility, we must do so within the confines of applicable law," Benavente said.

"In order to extend these federal benefits to CW-1, congressional action is necessary. If there is a way we can assist you, or information we can provide to you, in order to further support the passing of such legislation, please let me know," she added.

Dela Cruz is confirmed as CDA board member

By IVA MAURIN
iva_maurin@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Joaquin Q. Dela Cruz now joins the Commonwealth Development Authority board of directors as its newest member.

Dela Cruz, whose appointment as part of CDA's seven-member board was confirmed by the Senate last Friday, said his personal priority on the board is "local production."

"I would like to emphasize on that," Dela Cruz said in an interview Friday. "With the tourism industry that we have now, it's a big question. When are the tourists coming back?"

Without the tourism industry, he believes local production is key to boosting the local economy.

"...We need to find ways how we can activate our economic development. I believe that with CDA there, we can encourage some of our local people to go back to fishing, go back to farming. Let's pro-



Commonwealth Development Authority's newest board member Joaquin Q. Dela Cruz, center, poses with his family and senators at the Senate chamber. The Senate confirmed Friday the appointment of Dela Cruz as part of CDA's seven-member board.

duce local."

Dela Cruz, who currently works at the Pacific American Title Insurance & Escrow Company, has served the CDA in different capacities, as collector, accounting and loan assistant, loan officer, and loan manager, before retiring.

"This is a time that we really need to work with other agencies to find ways how can

we recover. How can we recover our economic development? We need to work with the [Northern Marianas College], we need to work with [NMC-Cooperative Research and Extension Education Services], the public market, the [Division of] Agriculture, because we need to do a lot of substitution in terms of local productions. I want to empha-

size that," he added.

CDA board members serve staggered four-year terms and may be reappointed to serve successive terms.

CDA is an autonomous public agency created to stimulate the CNMI economy by boosting local entrepreneurship. It is their mission to pro-

vide appropriate financial and technical assistance to help businesses start up or expand, for the welfare of the CNMI economy and its people.

In a separate interview after Dela Cruz's confirmation, Sen. Teresita Santos (Ind-Rota) said that CDA has made positive reforms on some of its

policies over the years, easing restrictions on its loan applications and requirements, making it more feasible to apply and be approved for CDA's micro and direct loans. CDA has also expanded the types of loans and loan amount it provides to its clients.

"We trust that Dela Cruz, together with the rest of the CDA board of directors, will continue to advocate or promote programs beneficial for both our government and its clients," she added.

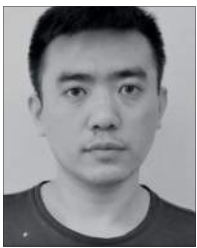
At the news briefing Thursday, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres again pushed for and thanked all who are venturing out and looking at alternative ways for the CNMI to earn revenues, outside of tourism. The CNMI, along with the rest of the world, is suffering from a severe economic downturn due to the global halt of tourism, due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

DETF executes arrest warrants

On Thursday, June 18, 2020, the CNMI Drug Enforcement Task Force executed two arrest warrants for Shuo Qiu and Huaishu Wang, on Navy Hill, Saipan.

Qiu, also known as "Boss" or "Brother JD," is charged with one count of drug possession and one count of trafficking. Same with Wang, who was charged similarly.

The next day, June 19,



Qiu



Wang



Su

These arrests were made pursuant to arrest warrants issued by the CNMI Superior Court, with bail set at \$100,000 each.

If you or

someone you know want to report any drug-related activity in your village, DPS encourages you to call 911. If you would like to remain anonymous, call the CNMI Crime Stoppers hotline at 234-7272. (PR)

2020, the task force executed an arrest warrant for Fanfan Su in Garapan, Saipan.

Fanfan Su, also known as "Dragon," is charged with one count of drug possession and one count of drug trafficking.

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB20-DCCA/CCDF-078

SUBMISSION DATE: JULY 09, 2020 TIME: 09:30 A.M.

"PURCHASE OF TEN GENERATORS FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS, CHILD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT FUND"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENSION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

****MUST USE A FACE MASK BEFORE ENTERING THE OFFICE****

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ ROBERT HUNTER
SECRETARY, DCCA

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, P&S

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB20-DLNR-077 (A-B) - CIF ROTA

SUBMISSION DATE: JULY 09, 2020 TIME 09:00 A.M.

"PURCHASE OF TWO (2) USED CLASS 'F' PICK-UP TRUCKS FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF LANDS AND NATURAL RESOURCES"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENSION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

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/S/ ANTHONY T. BENAVENTE
SECRETARY, DLNR

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, P&S

**Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONS LICENSING BOARD**

P.O. Box 502078, Bldg., 1242 Pohnpei Court
Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel No: (670) 664-4809 Fax: (670) 664-4814
Email: cnmibpl-hcplb.net
Website: cnmibpl-hcplb.net

Pursuant to P.L. 8-41, Section 11, Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lt. Governor Arnold I. Palacios, through the Health Care Professions Licensing Board (HCPLB) are hereby giving notice that it will hold its regular monthly board meeting on **Wednesday, June 24, 2020 at 8am** on Saipan. The meeting will be held at the Administration Building, Governor's Conference Room on Capitol Hill.

AGENDA

- I. Meeting Call to Order
- II. Determination of Quorum
- III. Review and Adoption of Agenda
- IV. Review and Adoption of Minutes (05/29/20)
- V. Public Comments
- VI. Chairperson's Report
- VII. Director's Report
 - Update on N.K. Hearing Case
- VIII. Investigator's Report - None
- IX. Communications from the Governor's Office & Legislature
 - A. Governor's Office - None
 - B. Legislature - None
- X. Old Business
- XI. New Business
- XII. Pending Applications for Board's Review
 - A. New Application
 - Pasatiempo (Physician) - Update
 - B. Renewal Applications
- XIII. Miscellaneous Business
 - **Update:** Applicants' Employment to Practice Virtually - Legal Counsel
- XIV. Executive Session: The Board may vote to meet in executive session to consult with Counsel on pending or anticipated legal matters.
- XV. Announcements
 - A. Next Meeting Date
 - B. Adjournment of Meeting

/s/ Theodore R. Parker, R.Ph., MPH
Chairman

**Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION**

P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Tel: (670) 234-9447
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: http://www.nmhc.gov.net

PUBLIC NOTICE

06/23/2020
Notice for Public Comment
Reprogramming of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Funds

Program Year/IDIS No.	Program	Activity Name	Subrecipient	Approved Budget	Proposed Reprogramming Amount	Proposed Revised Project Budget	Current IDIS Funded Amount
2018	CDBG	Unobligated EN Funds			\$265,782.86		
		Total Reprogrammed from Activities:			(\$265,782.86)		
2018	CDBG	Purchase and Installation of lighting fixtures for Oleai Track and Field Facility	Northern Marianas Sports Association	New	\$250,000.00	N/A	N/A
2017/677	CDBG	Rehabilitation and Expansion of the Kagman Community Center	Department of Community and Cultural Affairs Office (DCCA)	\$431,650.00	\$15,782.86	\$447,432.86	\$431,650.00
		Total Reprogrammed to Activities:			(\$265,782.86)		

Our agency through its Citizen Participation Plan (CPP) that we publish a "Public Notice" on reprogramming of funds over \$100,001.00. Therefore, comments from the general public should be submitted to NMHC Central office located in Garapan, Saipan on or before Monday, June 29, 2020, no later than 4:30 p.m. You may contact Ms. Zenie P. Mafnas, Deputy Corporate Director or Ms. Tricia Tenorio, Planner at (670)234-6866/9447.

/s/ Jesse S. Palacios
Corporate Director

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp | Website: http://www.nmhc.gov.net
Tel Nos. 670-234-6866/234-9447; Fax No: 670-234-9021

NOTICE FOR PUBLIC COMMENT
June 23, 2020
Substantial Amendment to the Five-Year Consolidated Plan (2015-2019) and Program Year 2019 Annual Action Plan

The Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) hereby announces the availability for public review and comment, the Substantial Amendment to the Five-Year Consolidated Plan (2015 – 2019) / Annual Action Plan Program Year 2019.

NMHC's Citizen Participation Plan has triggered the need for a substantial amendment to both the Five-Year Consolidated Plan (2015- 2019) and the Annual Action Plan for Program Year 2019. The CNMI is seeking the public's comments to amend both the Five-Year Consolidated Plan (2015-2019) and the Annual Action Plan for the Program Year 2019 to include additional Emergency Solutions Grant funds (HEARTH Act) (HESG) made possible through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act to address the COVID19 pandemic in the CNMI.

The planned activities for each CPD program include the following:

Program	Allocation	Project Description
HESG-COVID (2nd Allocation)	\$815,225	Housing Relocation and Stabilization Services, Rapid Re-housing Assistance; Homelessness Prevention Assistance; Homeless Management Information Systems Inc., Planning and Administrative Costs

The general public will be given the opportunity to provide comments at the virtual hearings. All written comments should be submitted through the NMHC website at www.nmhc.gov.net or delivered to the Drop Box located at the NMHC Office Building in Garapan, Saipan no later than 4:30 p.m., Monday, June 29, 2020. For further information, please contact Zenie Mafnas, Deputy Corporate Director, at 670-285-2146.

/s/ Jesse S. Palacios
Corporate Director

This advertisement is paid with HUD CPD Funds.

Ex-soldier, girlfriend get 2 years in prison for drug trafficking

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A former South Korean soldier and his girlfriend were slapped last week with a two-year prison sentence in the Superior Court for trafficking methamphetamine or “ice.”

Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho on Wednesday sentenced Sung Joon Park, 42, to the maximum of eight years’ imprisonment, with the first two years to be served and the six years suspended, as to the offense of trafficking of a controlled substance.

Camacho sentenced Li Hui Shi, 41, to the maximum of six years’ imprisonment, with the first two years to be served and the four years suspended, for trafficking of a controlled substance.

Park and Shi will be eligible for parole after serving a third of the two years; both were given credit for time served. After serving the two-year prison term (whether or not they are granted parole), Park and Shi will be placed on 10 years’ probation. Park and Shi were each ordered to pay a \$25 in court costs and \$120 in probation fees per year.

Camacho said the sentence imposed on Park and Shi touches upon the three goals of sentencing: deterrence, retribution, and incapacitation. The judge said that, after serving two years in prison, Park and Shi will have time to reflect and be rehabilitated. Camacho said he finds the defendants ideal candidates for rehabilitation, with intense supervision by the board of

parole, hence the length of the sentence of two years.

Camacho said the defendants will continue to be supervised by the Office of Adult Probation upon their release from the Department of Corrections.

Park, who was discharged from the South Korean military as a sergeant major, has admitted to being a drug addict. Shi denies she is a drug user.

Camacho ordered Park to attend and complete any counseling program as determined necessary by the Community Guidance Center.

Camacho said that, with intense supervision by parole, Park and Shi have the motivation to be on good behavior if they truly want to change their life for the better.

CNMI Drug Enforcement

Task Force agents arrested Park and Shi in November 2019, saying their “cooperating source” bought \$550 worth of “ice” from Park and Shi during a sting operation on Oct. 25, 2019, at their home in Dandan. The “cooperating source” was allegedly able to buy again \$540 worth of “ice” from the two on Oct. 28, 2019.

Camacho noted that Park asked Shi at least twice to facilitate an illegal drug transaction by making a call and then taking the money to the drug dealer to obtain the “ice.” Upon delivery, Park shared some of the “ice” with the buyer (informant).

Camacho said, he finds that an accurate picture is that Shi and Park knew that “ice” is an illegal drug and worked out a system to avoid detection by law enforcers attempting to separate the money transaction and the drug transaction and the “stash house.”

Camacho pointed out that

the illegal drug business is by nature a clandestine business. In this case, Camacho said, the unnamed drug dealer came very quickly once the call was made. “This point is significant to the court,” the judge said, adding that even requiring the buyer (informant) use the drug in front of Park is yet another scheme to try to weed out if the buyer was working with law enforcement and an attempt to avoid detection.

Camacho said though Shi tries to paint herself as less culpable than her boyfriend, he finds that she was a willing and knowing participant in trafficking “ice.”

Camacho said Park is not eligible for the CNMI Drug Court Program as he is a non-U.S. citizen and is out of immigration status.

Camacho said a copy of his order for the defendants shall be provided or placed in the box for the U.S. Department of Homeland Security-Immigration and Custom Enforcement.

In Park’s case, assistant attor-

ney general Chester Hinds recommended a sentence of eight years, five years to serve, three years to be suspended, with parole eligibility, and \$5,000 fine. Defense counsel Michael Dotts recommended a sentence of one year, with credit for time served, and \$5,000 fine.

In Shi’s case, Hinds recommended a sentence of six years, three years to serve, three years to be suspended, and \$5,000 fine. Dotts recommended a sentence of time served and a \$5,000 fine.

Defendant has two prior traffic cases in the CNMI—a misdemeanor reckless driving and no driver’s license in possession and speeding.

From 2003 to 2019, Park was employed as an assistant manager with a family company—Joon Corp. The company later became bankrupt and closed down. From 2005 to 2007, Shi was employed as a beautician on Saipan. From 2014 to 2016, she worked as a manager of her company. The company has since closed down.



360 earn degrees in UOG's second largest graduation

Latte Tones members and University of Guam graduates, from left, Jacob Richards, Julia Rivera, and Rhojine Javinal sing the national anthem and Fanohge Chamorro in the Calvo Field House on June 18 for UOG's virtual commencement ceremony.

UNIVERSITY OF GUAM

The University of Guam conferred degrees to 360 graduates at its Fañomñakan Commencement Ceremony on June 18.

The number marks the university’s second largest graduating class in history, following last May with 375 graduates. It also marks a record-high number of master’s degrees conferred by the university within an academic year with a total of 144.

The ceremony was held virtually due to safety precautions with the COVID-19 pandemic. Nearly 1,000 people tuned in live for the ceremony on Facebook, and the video has had 32,000 views overall. Following a processional, anthems, invocation, and speeches that were recorded on a decorated stage in the Calvo Field House, each graduate’s name was called while their graduation photo and title of their degree showed on screen.

The largest number of undergraduates came from the School of Business & Public Administration, which conferred 95 bachelor’s degrees, over half of which were Bachelor of Business Administration degrees. The School of Education graduated the largest number of graduate students conferring 30 master’s degrees.

PHOTOS AND VIDEO

- The ceremony is viewable on UOG’s Facebook page at www.facebook.com/UniversityofGuam
- On UOG’s YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/user/UOGTritons.
- Photos of each graduate will also be available at www.flickr.com/photos/uogtriton/albums

“This class of graduates of the University of Guam has been resilient and flexible and supportive in the spirit of our CHamoru values of *chenchule’* and *inafa’maolek*,” said UOG president Thomas W. Krise in his remarks. “I am proud of your academic achievements and even prouder of your character. Take what you’ve learned with us and help make the world better for us all.”

Former Guam resident U.S. Ambassador Yuri Kim delivered the keynote speech from her post in Albania. Kim is the first Korean-American woman and the first person from Guam to be a U.S. ambassador.

“There will be more hardship coming your way,” she said. “Life is like that. It spares no one. ... You will have to decide what to do about it. Do you surrender to the hard-

ship? Let it derail you? Let it stop you in your tracks? Or do you get back up and find a way over, under, through, around the obstacles that will inevitably come between you and your dream? I hope you choose the latter.”

The graduates also heard from Class of 2020 valedictorian Megan Yan Gimmen. A Merit Scholar from Okkodo High School, Gimmen graduated with dual degrees in biology and chemistry. She has been accepted into a selective two-year premedical program at Johns Hopkins University, where she will gain mentorship and research experience prior to applying to medical school.

“Realize that your newly earned education equips you with the knowledge and skills to address local problems,” Gimmen told her fellow graduates. “... Guam may face many issues, but that does not mean we should look elsewhere for an already developed, invested-in community. Our very own ‘brain drain’—where those who are equipped to build our community leave and instead build the communities of others—is not the solution. Our fellow islanders are what make this island special, and we are worth building up.” (UOG)

MCS senior takes part in JSA-Stanford program

This summer, Mount Carmel School’s upcoming senior Katherine “Kate” Avendano-Woodruff participated in the Junior Statesmen of America-Stanford Summer Program.

Due to safety measures regarding the pandemic, Woodruff participated in the virtual program along with other scholars across the United States and its territories. The program is expected to end on July 3, 2020.

JSA is a program that brings high school students to top universities in the U.S.—like Stanford, Princeton, and Georgetown—to take college-level courses relating to politics, from AP Government to speech to macroeconomics. Successful completion of courses typically translates to college

credits for students. The program is also an opportunity for students to network with and learn from other like-minded students with interests in politics and government.

“We are incredibly proud of Kate and all our JSA Knights and AlumKnights, many of whom have gone on to serve our community. We trust that Kate will follow in their footsteps,” said MCS president Dr. Galvin Deleon Guerrero.

“The program is very enlightening,” said Avendano-Woodruff. “Although I am not participating face-to-face, I still had the chance to meet new people and hear different opinions on current issues. It’s a good experience that much can be learned from.”

The program is centered on

developing leaders for change, while reflecting on how she can contribute in her community. “The program exposed me to seeing new perspectives on current issues and I feel that I’m better equipped to understand community concerns and address them logically and constructively,” said Avendano-Woodruff.

Avendano-Woodruff is one of many Mount Carmel School students who has participated in the JSA summer program. Many AlumKnights who have participated in the JSA program pursue professions centered around civil service.

To learn more about Mount Carmel School’s college-preparatory curriculum, visit www.mountcarmelsaipan.com. (PR)



Richard Baleares, a graduating senior at Saipan Southern High School, is joined by his parents, Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona and Clerk of Court/Magistrate Judge Heather L. Kennedy.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Richard Baleares, a graduating senior at Saipan Southern High School, has won the CNMI leg of the regional civics contest for high school students that the Judicial Council of the Ninth Circuit hosts in nine western states, Guam, and the Northern Mariana Islands.

For the 2020 competition, students were invited

to submit essays and videos in response to the following prompt: “In the wake of the 15th and 19th Amendments, barriers remained to prevent United States citizens from voting. Do formal or informal barriers remain today? What additional changes would you make, if any, to Americans’ voting rights?”

Entries went through a first

round of judging in each of the 15 judicial districts that make up the circuit, and the winners will represent their district in a circuit-wide second round.

Baleares’ entry is a video that will now compete against 26 other finalists, after nearly 1,000 students entered across all districts. There is a \$2,000 cash prize for the first-place winner. (PR)

Lawmakers want to override Torres' veto on OMB transfer

By IVA MAURIN

iva_maurin@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Legislature will be pushing to override Gov. Ralph DLG Torres' veto on Senate Bill 21-33, SS1, which intends to transfer the Office of Management and Budget from the Office of the Governor to the Department of Finance. The deadline to override is July 30, 2020.

OMB is currently headed by special assistant for Management and Budget Virginia Villagomez.

The bill, authored and introduced by Sen. Vinnie Sablan (Ind-Saipan) in June 2019, passed both the House of Representatives and Senate unanimously, before being vetoed by Gov. Ralph DLG Torres last May 30, the last day before the bill would have lapsed into law.

"The Legislature finds that, although the Office of Management and Budget was established within the Office of the Governor, there has been some conflict or discrepancies between the OMB and the Department of Finance regarding the government's annual operating budget and other financial matters," the bill reads. "The Legislature finds that in order to promote cooperation and transparency, it would be beneficial to transfer OMB to DOF so that there is a unified position on all matters pertaining to management and budget. Accordingly, the purpose of this legislation is to transfer OMB to the Department of Finance."

In his veto message dated May 30, Torres stated that the "abrupt and seemingly impulsive" restructuring of OMB, particularly with the CNMI in a pandemic, will cause unnecessary interruptions in the administrative businesses of the government and hinder its ability to swiftly address unanticipated budgetary concerns during these uncertain times.

The governor also stated that the special assistant is charged with "the formulation

Guam releases tax refunds

HAGATNA, Guam—The Department of Revenue & Taxation of Guam has processed and the Department of Administration will mail 1,128 2019 tax refund checks this week. The checks total approximately \$4,896,478.52, including refunds garnished to repay government debts for error free returns filed on or before Jan. 28, 2020. For inquiries, contact us via the Contact Us section of the website or at pinadmin@revtax.guam.gov. (PR)



Sen. Vinnie Sablan (Ind-Saipan) speaks before the Senate in response to Gov. Ralph DLG Torres vetoing Senate Bill 21-33, SS1, which intends to transfer the Office of Management and Budget into the Department of Finance. The legislators will be pushing to override the veto, with the deadline to override on July 30, 2020.

IVA MAURIN

and execution of the budget, financial management matters, management of human resources, the improvement and administration of governmental affairs, the implementation of consistent budgetary policies, and the ensuring of efficiency throughout the government to achieve maximum effectiveness at minimal cost to taxpayers."

Streamlining government

Speaking at the Senate session Friday, Sablan reiterated that the bill does not aim to abolish OMB; rather, it aims to restructure and streamline the financial operations of the CNMI government.

The senator agreed that the duties mentioned by the governor "are of great sig-

nificance" but stressed that "it is in the best interest of the CNMI that this responsibility be at the direction of the top Cabinet official in the administration dealing with financial matters, which, in this particular matter, is the secretary of Finance."

At the governor's Fiscal Management Summit last month, the restructuring of the government's functions and agencies was identified as one of the top priorities to enable the government to function more efficiently. The bill is a step in that direction, Sablan said.

"The democratic process of the Senate acting on the governor's nominations to fill the most critical positions in the government, through the advice and consent decree, places full responsibility on

ment and its people."

Overlap

According to the CNMI law, it is the Department of Finance's duty to provide financial data to the governor, Legislature and departments, agencies, and instrumentalities of the Commonwealth, and to conduct all related financial management activities of the CNMI, aside from budget preparation and post-audit functions.

Yet Section 202 (d) of Executive Order 94-3, which placed OMB under the direct supervision of the governor, states that the OMB special assistant is meant "to ensure discipline in government programs and activities for consistency with the governor's policies and budget, improve government efficiency by reducing duplication and overlaps between and among agencies, and assist department and activity heads in internal organization and management to achieve maximum effectiveness at minimum cost to the taxpayers."

These are a "clear overlap of government operations," Sablan said at the session, adding that, at the Senate Fiscal Affairs Committee meeting last week, during the deliberation

on House Bill 21-121 HD1, introduced by Rep. Joseph Lee Pan Guerrero (R-Saipan) to give the Legislature control over all of its funding, a letter from the Office of the Attorney General stated that control over legislative funding must remain with the Department of Finance.

OAG stated that Section 8 of Article 10 of the Commonwealth Constitution vests the Department of Finance with control over all expenditures of public funds, where the department must promulgate regulations, including accounting procedures, to require public officials to demonstrate that public funds are used for public purpose.

"I beg to ask the question, does the duties of the special assistant of the OMB stated in the governor's veto message overreach in the constitutional mandate of the secretary of Finance?" Sablan asked. "For the record, I stand firm on my position to identify areas where the CNMI can have consistency in its fiscal affairs. ...Again, the intent of Senate Bill 21-33 does not aim to abolish the [OMB]. It simply aims to restructure the financial operations of the CNMI government so it is streamlined for more efficiency."



NORTHERN MARIANAS COALITION
AGAINST DOMESTIC & SEXUAL VIOLENCE
P.O. BOX 506689, SAIPAN, MP 96950
PHONE: 670.234.3878

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT FOR SHELTER WORKER (GUMA ESPERANSA) (Temporary, 12 months)

NMCADSV is looking for a motivated individual to join its team! We are looking for someone who is rooted in service and believes in the social justice values we uphold.

Job Summary: The SHELTER WORKER will be employed by NMCADSV and report to Guma Esperansa, Karidat Social Services. Guma Esperansa is the shelter for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault in the CNMI. Shelter workers provide a variety of direct shelter and advocacy services and related administrative tasks under the direct supervision of the Shelter Manager, including ensuring the safety of residents and other staff, assisting with schedules and transportation for clients, conduct intake assessments, participate in meetings and training, and other tasks as assigned. Please see the "Position Description" for a complete list of duties and responsibilities.

Minimum Qualifications: An understanding of and agreement with NMCADSV's mission statement and philosophy regarding the elimination of domestic and sexual violence; an understanding of and agreement with the mission of Karidat Social Services; good verbal and written communication skills; and capacity for warmth and openness for working with people from varied backgrounds.

Applicants must be able to work evenings, nights, weekends, and holidays to ensure appropriate coverage for Guma Esperansa, a 24-hour residential shelter. Also, applicants should have reliable transportation and a valid CNMI driver's license.

Classification & Salary Range: Full Time, Non-Exempt, \$16,500.00 per annum.

Copies of the full Position Description can be requested by email at info@endviolencenmi.org or downloaded from the NMCADSV Facebook page.

To Apply: Submit the following on or before 11:59 p.m. on Friday, July 3, 2020. Late or incomplete applications will not be considered.

1. Cover Letter
2. Karidat Application Form (available for download at NMCADSV Facebook Page or by email to info@endviolencenmi.org)
3. Copy of Diploma or Degree
4. Copy of valid CNMI Driver's License
5. Copy of Police Clearance (obtained within the past 6 months)

Applications can be submitted through:

1. Email (with all attachments) to info@endviolencenmi.org. OR
2. Mail hard-copy to NMCADSV, P.O. Box 506689, Saipan, MP 96950. (Mailed applications must be postmarked on or before the deadline.) OR
3. Drop hard-copy to Karidat Social Services, Chalan Kanoa, Saipan (Formerly Sr. Remedios Early Childhood Development Center).

NMCADSV is an equal opportunity employer.
Individuals from under-served communities are encouraged to apply.

This project is 100% supported by federal grants, awarded by the Office on Violence Against Women, U.S. Department of Justice, Grant Award #2019-WR-AX-0051. The opinions, findings, conclusions, and recommendations expressed in this release are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of the U.S. Department of Justice.

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Wanted Floral Arrangements Retail Purchaser/Retailer

- Must be able to show experience selecting, purchasing and arranging shipment of fine ceramics from SE Asia
- Must be able to grow, arrange, and care for flowers and living plants
- Must have at least 6 months experience
- Must be fluent in English, preferably able to speak Vietnamese, or Thai.
- ONLY US residents are eligible to apply.

Please call 256-1041 after
5:00pm to apply.

Opinion

Hafa Adair

Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

Supreme Court rules, and DACA survives for now

A few pages into a consequential U.S. Supreme Court ruling Thursday on immigration policy, Chief Justice John Roberts, writing for the majority, quotes two of his predecessors on the matter of cutting corners.

"Justice Holmes famously wrote that '(m)en must turn square corners when they deal with the Government.' ... But it is also true, particularly when so much is at stake, that 'the Government should turn square corners in dealing with the people.'"

Thursday's ruling found that the Trump administration's Department of Homeland Security took shortcuts around the right angles of administrative law when it decided in 2017 to end Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, an Obama-era policy that, under specified conditions, delays the potential deportation of people who were brought into the country illegally as children and allows them to work and receive federal benefits.

Thus, DACA survives on a technicality. The court's 5-4 ruling sends the issue back to the lower courts, where DHS can try again to defend its plans. The three-quarters of a million people who have benefited from the policy have gotten a reprieve, but the ultimate paths of their lives still hang in the balance, especially if President Donald Trump wins a second term.

Much will be made of the fact that the court delivered Trump two major defeats last week, the decision on LGBTQ employment rights issued on June 15 being the first. What Thursday's ruling really illustrates, however, is the peril of conducting major policy by executive order.

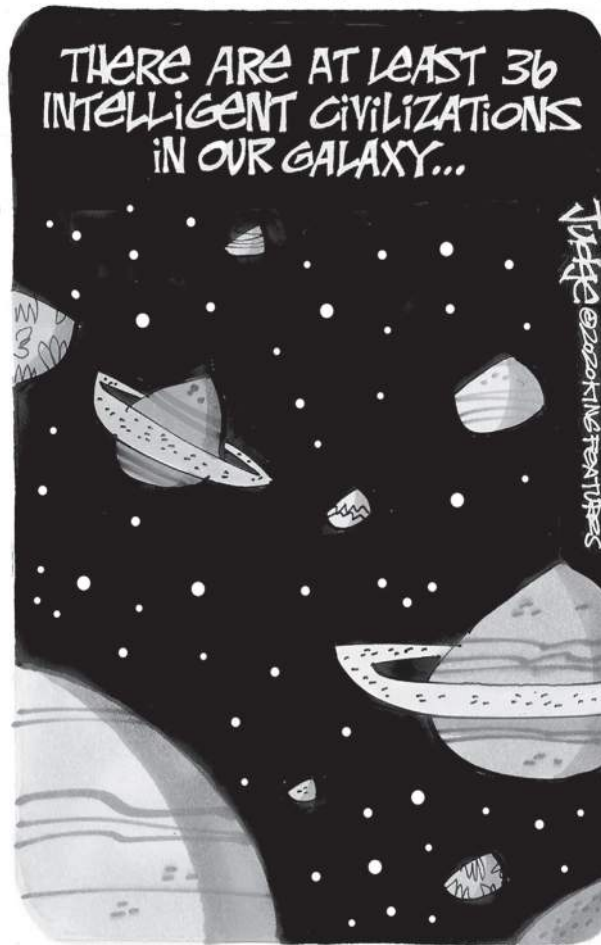
The dissenting justices argue that the Obama administration acted with as much caprice in implementing the policy in 2012 as the Trump administration did in rescinding it. That was, in fact, the basis under which Trump's first appointed attorney general, Jeff Sessions, declared DHS illegal—a determination even Roberts noted that DHS had to act upon, the question being how. (Moot point—illegal is illegal, wrote Justice Clarence Thomas for the dissenters.)

The country has now engaged in two decades of "policy, religious and moral debates about the legal status of millions of young immigrants," wrote Justice Brett Kavanaugh. Yet through all this, Congress has failed to act.

Those covered by the DACA policy fill essential roles in the workforce. They pay taxes. It's time for the legislative branch to turn a corner and give them the certainty they deserve.

(c)2020 Star Tribune (Minneapolis)

ACCORDING TO A NUMBER OF SCIENTISTS:



The crucial difference between protests and riots

I've been active in law enforcement for more than 50 years. During that time, I've seen numerous protests. I've also seen far too many riots. There's a difference.

Orderly protest is part of our American tradition. It is an exercise of our constitutional rights of free speech and peaceable assembly. It is one way we the people can make our voices heard, our views known to those in power.

But rioting, looting, destroying property and attacking fellow Americans have no place in orderly protest. They are, in fact, the very antithesis of orderly protest. And in the end, these patently illegal actions not only undermine the moral standing of legitimate protests. History shows that they also wind up hurting most of the very people that true protesters aim to help.

Peaceful protest can help change America for the better. Organized protests and peaceful demonstrations during the Martin Luther King Jr. era produced tremendous progress for the civil rights movement; the church bombings and other violent actions of segregationists only advanced Dr. King's cause.

Those nonviolent protests changed laws and changed lives. In today's America, there are more successful African Americans—and more opportunities for African Americans to succeed—than at any point in our nation's history.

Yet, recent events make painfully clear that America's race issues are not fully resolved. George Floyd's tragic death should bring us closer together. And peaceful protest can help do that.

Unfortunately, just as in previous protests, not everyone who has taken to the streets has come to build up the black community and bind us together.

Some believe their demands for change will never be taken seriously unless they demonstrate their willingness to "burn it down." But burning things down only polarizes communities, making it even more difficult for a just cause to advance. Violence is not only unacceptable, it's useless as a tool for bringing positive social change.

Also on the streets are antifa anarchists and other radical extremists who see the protests as an opportunity to sow chaos and division, and who seek to incite the killing of police officers. They care nothing about honoring the memory of George Floyd or trying to work toward a more common understanding on race issues. This, too, must not be tolerated.

Then, of course, there are political opportunists. They may not be in the streets, but they see what's happening as a fantastic opportunity to score points and mobilize their bases. Their demands

By **EDWIN MEESE III**
The Heritage Foundation

A former U.S. attorney general, Edwin Meese III is the Ronald Reagan Distinguished Fellow Emeritus at The Heritage Foundation.



to defund or dissolve police forces are self-defeating and absurd. Shame on them. This is not a political issue; it is a moral one.

Rioters are destroying families' futures and stealing the American dream. They have killed those sworn to protect us, harmed innocent citizens and damaged many of the businesses that provide groceries, work and necessary services in our minority communities. Many of these businesses that were already teetering on the edge due to the COVID-19 shutdown. Mob violence assures that many of them will never recover—and the jobs they provided will never return.

To bring about change in society, we must identify wrong policies and wrong actions where they exist. We must also hold accountable and punish wrongdoers. But we should not resort to lawlessness or stigmatize courageous, lawfully acting police officers.

We must also recognize that government can't change hearts. This is work we must each do ourselves. We can start by asking ourselves the question posed by theologian Francis Schaeffer: "How should we then live?"

We can also help change the hearts of others, by reaching out in a spirit of grace, openness, and understanding. We must lift each other up and find ways to help heal those who have been harmed. Only when we come together and listen to one another, rather than shouting at one another, can we begin to heal and to be healed.

Violence does not heal. It destroys. It alienates. It divides. We must reject it. We must punish it. But we must also listen and respond to the voices of pain, offered up in legitimate, peaceful protest.

This difficult moment in our history gives us an opportunity to get this right, to live up to the American ideal. We must search our hearts and find the discipline and the courage to do so.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

PRO: Defunding the police makes sense

Set aside the emotions. Defunding the police—reducing the money spent on policing and reallocating it to other local priorities—is common sense, whether you look at the issue from a budgetary, criminal justice or social point of view.

From the budgetary point of view, we just spend too much money on policing. Over the last 40 years, state and local spending on policing has almost tripled, rising from \$42 billion to \$115 billion (in 2017 inflation-adjusted dollars).

Consider these snapshots from Texas:

—The Dallas Police Department budget is \$516,967,195 this year. That's more than the city will spend on libraries, parks and recreation, public works, housing, planning and zoning, and municipal courts combined.

—The city of San Antonio police budget is \$479,091,284 this year. That's 37% of the city's general fund spending—more than taxpayers spend on human services, housing, courts, jails, libraries, public parks and animal control combined.

—Austin's police department's budget is \$440,000,000. That's more than the city spends on public health, housing, libraries, city planning, parks and recreation and emergency medical services combined.

The massive municipal spending on policing simply crowds out spending on other priorities, leaving cities unable to make the investments they need to include everyone's quality of life—by creating more economic opportunity, supporting affordable housing, improving parks and libraries, and more.

From a criminal justice point of view, more police do not give us more public safety. Black and brown communities know directly that the police are too often a source of violence, harassment and intimidation—that's what the Black Lives Matter protests are surfacing so poignantly.

The horrific police murder of George Floyd was no exception, and stop-and-frisk and similar abuses are pervasive, not occasional. In the peak year of stop and-frisk during the New York mayoralty of Michael Bloomberg, New York police conducted almost 700,000 stops, with African Americans and Latinos nine times more likely to be stopped than whites.

The overwhelming number of police arrests are for misdemeanors, 80%, according to University of California law professor Alexandra Natapoff. Some misdemeanors are serious, but most aren't. So long as most police arrests involves misdemeanors, more police means more crime and a lower quality of life—not just because the numbers are artificially boosted by needless arrests for low-level offenses but because people who are pulled into the criminal justice system have narrowed opportunities and are more likely to be pulled back into the criminal justice system again.

From a social point of view, we ask the police to do things they are not set up to do. In too many cases, police are the de facto case workers and jails the de facto clinics for people with mental illness. Police are often the frontline social workers for people expe-

By ROBERT WEISSMAN
InsideSources.com



Robert Weissman is the president of Public Citizen, a nonprofit consumer advocacy organization that champions the public interest in the halls of power. He wrote this for InsideSources.com.

riencing homelessness. Police fill the gaps from missing economic opportunity. We should instead be relying on trained professionals to perform these and other tasks.

Policing is hard work, and we all need assurances of public safety. Police must be held accountable for wrongdoing, but we all should also appreciate the good-faith and hard work of most police officers.

At the same time we can recognize their importance and individual and collective commitment to protecting communities, we can also see the need for right size police departments. There's simply too much money being thrown at police forces, and it's coming at the expense of other priorities. Excessive policing is not reducing crime—it's criminalizing black and brown communities and making us less safe.

At this moment of national reckoning, we should be rethinking the criminal justice system and shrinking its footprint—decriminalizing low-level offenses, reducing the prison population and yes, shrinking police forces—while redirecting resources into investments in jobs and housing, parks and libraries. In doing so, we will improve public safety and quality of life for everyone, especially those in black and brown communities.

CON: Defunding police will prove black lives don't matter

By NADRA ENZI
InsideSources.com



Nadra Enzi is a member of the Project 21 black leadership network and grassroots security consultant in New Orleans. He wrote this for InsideSources.com.

George Floyd's murder was a horrific crime, and it has literally changed the world. But we need to take a moment to calm ourselves. We must reflect on our goals for fixing law enforcement problems before letting radical activists take control of the criminal justice reform agenda.

That's because—in the wake of the memorial services, protests and riots—there has been a steady call for changing the police by defunding them.

On the June 14 edition of "Face the Nation," an interview with Seattle Police Chief Carmen Best was prophetically titled "Policing will never be as it was." Truer words have yet to be written.

Chief Best appears to be at odds with Seattle Mayor Jenny Durkan over how to deal with protesters who created CHAZ—the "Capitol Hill Autonomous Zone." Now called CHOP, or "Capitol Hill Organized Protest," this occupation of several square blocks of the Emerald City best shows how the sides are lining up in this raging debate.

While she says there is not a "cop-free

zone" in the city, Best's decision not to forcibly disband the CHAZ/CHOP reflects a hesitancy among departments in dealing with protesters. CHAZ/CHOP insists they are free of a police presence, and the mayor's office wants only a limited first-responder presence there.

Whichever side has the upper hand, the bottom line is that governments are anxious to avoid the next high-profile police use of deadly force and rioting thereafter. Consider what happened in Atlanta, which was the latest city to suffer arson and vandalism after Rayshard Brooks was killed by an officer there. That officer was immediately fired and charged with murder.

Incidents like this will only increase demands for defunding.

Defunding may actually be more of a wish

than reality given complex webs of municipal, state and federal law in addition to civil service and police union regulations to be untangled before what is an obviously dangerous goal can be attained. While there still may be cops, however, they may have to deal with significant funding cuts like those already proposed in Los Angeles and New York City.

But people like me—"safety citizens" who value our communities and want to work with authorities to keep them crime-free—must take these radical activists at their word. The screaming protesters and slightly less shrill elected officials are demanding defunding. Safety citizens need to make it clear we support fully funded and empowered police departments. Period. And they need to know that we also support punishing rogue officers.

Both safety citizens and police critics hoped earlier community policing policies would be the solution to long-term tensions between law enforcement and urban communities. Its focus on relationship-building at all levels, however, seems to have fallen short of the mark. In fact, it appears that relationship-building between police and the public gave way to calls for diminished police powers and even abolishing the profession altogether.

Defunding proposals couldn't come at worse time. Culturally, American law enforcement became increasingly unpopular since the 2014 death of Michael Brown in Ferguson, Mo. This tipping point birthed "de-policing," where officers who feel they are under too much scrutiny cease being proactive for fear of termination or even prosecution by state and federal authorities.

A bitter irony emerges with the rise of Black Lives Matter activism. Less empowered and underfunded police departments will effectively be set up to fail in underserved low-income, high-crime communities. My grassroots security consulting began in such an area. I know firsthand that less monied and less empowered departments mean more misery for majority-black communities.

These poorly funded departments already experience personnel shortages and lengthy 911 response times. Residents in the occupied CHAZ/CHOP are complaining about a lack of first responders. How will matters be made worse by withholding or terminating police budgets there and across America?

Regardless of whether defunding demands are wishful thinking or determined steps toward an abolition of the police profession, one inescapable conclusion remains: defunding police is defeating public safety. This defeat will be acutely felt in the very communities that screaming that black lives matter.

Q: Should police be defunded?**LETTER TO THE EDITOR****Stop polluting the island!**

I do not live on your island but have visited it many, many times in the past 25 years. I do have family that live on the island.

Every year I am amazed at how poorly the parks and beach areas are kept up. It is a crying shame that the people of Saipan seem to think it is okay to leave trash everywhere. If you can carry it to the beach you need to carry it back out. I have even seen that there are barrels to put trash in and yet they are too lazy to walk it to the container!

Is it that people are that lazy or that poorly educated to think that we as a human race do not have to take care of our environment? You eat fish from the very ocean you pollute!

I believe that perhaps if the local police would patrol these areas they could catch the

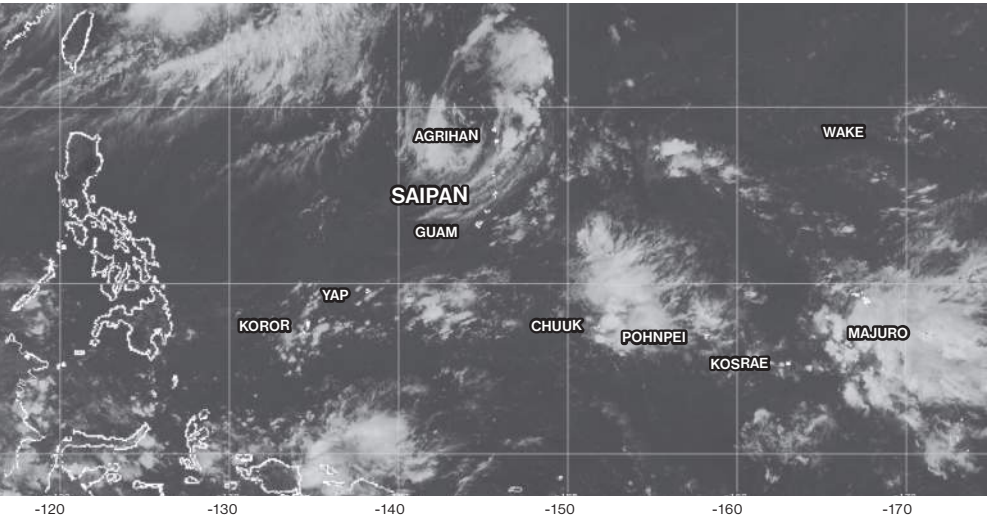
people that are doing this act. Fine them and stay with them to witness them clean up the mess they created! I also think that if prisoners are allowed to walk around in public they too could be taken to the beaches and parks on a weekly basis and have them pay restitution on their crime.

If you can keep your beaches and parks clean perhaps more people would be likely to visit your island and spend money. That is a win-win for your island. If I didn't have family living there I know I would spend money to go elsewhere! There used to be a huge tourist base. Look around! It's a mess!

Cathy McRoberts
via email

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY	
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. East winds 10 to 20 mph.		Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. East winds 10 to 20 mph.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	
89°	78°	89°	78°	89°	79°	89°	79°	89°	78°
YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE									



PICTURE TIME: 8:10 AM, SUNDAY, JUNE 22, 2020
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Andersen Air Force Base Doppler weather radar shows isolated showers moving through the Marianas waters, mainly south of Guam and west of Rota. Infrared satellite shows an upper-level low in the northern islands of the CNMI, quite close to Asuncion. This low is spraying scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms across all the Marianas north of Anatahan. The buoys reveal combined seas of 3 to 5 feet, composed mainly of trade-wind swell from the east-northeast and another swell from the east-southeast, along with some wind waves.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

- Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.
- Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.
- Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.
- Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.
- Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.
- Create a household plan of action, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklist-household-ready.html>
- Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

able, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

- Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html>

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mp and follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at <http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html> and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

- ### Continue good hand hygiene
- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.
 - Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

- ### Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic
- Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:
 - Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.
 - Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not avail-

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

MICRONESIA			▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorm	87° / 80°	
Palau	Thunderstorm	85° / 77°	
Yap	Thunderstorm	86° / 79°	
Chuuk	Thunderstorm	86° / 80°	
Pohnpei	Thunderstorm	87° / 77°	
Kosrae	Thunderstorm	87° / 77°	
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	86° / 81°	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:48 AM	6:50 PM
Wednesday	5:48 AM	6:50 PM
Thursday	5:48 AM	6:50 PM
Friday	5:49 AM	6:50 PM
Saturday	5:49 AM	6:50 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	7:18 AM	8:41 PM	-
Wednesday	8:17 AM	9:33 PM	-
Thursday	9:16 AM	10:22 PM	-
Friday	10:14 AM	11:09 PM	-
Saturday	11:11 AM	11:53 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	57° / 48°	
Beijing	Sunny	93° / 70°	
Hong Kong	Thunderstorm	88° / 82°	
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	87° / 75°	
London	Sunny	70° / 52°	
Los Angeles	Sunny	81° / 64°	
Manila	Thunderstorm	88° / 77°	
Melbourne	Showers	55° / 43°	
Miami	Partly Cloudy	87° / 78°	
New York	Partly Cloudy	74° / 65°	
Osaka	Cloudy	81° / 72°	
Paris	Mostly Sunny	68° / 48°	
Busan	Mostly Sunny	79° / 66°	
Rome	Mostly Sunny	82° / 63°	
Salem	Thunderstorm	90° / 73°	
San Francisco	Sunny	68° / 56°	
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	88° / 66°	
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	81° / 72°	
Washington, DC	Showers	82° / 64°	

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
3:15 AM	LOW TIDE	1.48	
7:47 AM	HIGH TIDE	2.01	
3:18 PM	LOW TIDE	-0.21	
10:38 PM	HIGH TIDE	2.08	

FLIGHT SCHEDULE

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117	9:15am	9:55am	1, 4, 6	UA174	7:30am	8:11am	1, 4, 6
LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. (The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)							

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA				1207	13:00	13:15	Temporarily Unavailable
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1208	14:00	14:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1301.2	8:30AM	9:00AM	Tues/Fri	1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
1303	3:30PM	4:00PM	Tues/Fri	1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
ROTA TO SAIPAN				1211	17:00	17:15	Temporarily Unavailable
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1212	18:00	18:15	Temporarily Unavailable
3101.2	9:30AM	10:00AM	Tues/Fri				
3103	4:30PM	5:00PM	Tues/Fri				
ROTA TO GUAM				TINIAN TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable	2101	7:30	7:45	Temporarily Unavailable
GUAM TO ROTA				2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
4301	13:00	13:30	Temporarily Unavailable	2104	10:30	10:45	Temporarily Unavailable
SAIPAN TO TINIAN				2105	11:30	11:45	Temporarily Unavailable
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2106	12:30	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable
1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable	2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily	2108	14:30	14:45	Temporarily Unavailable
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily	2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Temporarily Unavailable	2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
1205	11:00	11:15	Temporarily Unavailable	2111	17:30	17:45	Temporarily Unavailable
1206	12:00	12:15	Temporarily Unavailable	2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable



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Business

SAIPAN SNAPS cookies are still baking

By BEA CABRERA

beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

Not wanting happy memories to stop, Saipan Snaps cookies remained open even through the COVID-19 pandemic as the company was established as a way to offer delicious locally made products available to everyone.

According to owner Jill Arenovski, Saipan Snaps has an amazing connection that stirs happy memories for so many people of all ages and backgrounds. "Saipan Snaps has been fortunate to remain open during the pandemic. We continue to fill orders for retailers and business customers as well as online orders from our website," she said.

"We offer original ginger snaps and a sweet heat version in both small and large sizes. A new flavor of Saipan Snaps is planned for release before the end of 2020. For the month of June, Saipan Snaps is a great gift for Father's Day as online orders receive a free hand-crafted greeting card for the occasion," she added.

Aside from being busy with managing Saipan Snaps, Arenovski never fails to give back to the community. "Our company recently donated 200 bags of original and sweet heat snaps to the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. for distribution to both patients and staff as a token of appreciation for the hard work they do to keep our islands safe," she said.

"...Saipan Snaps are baked



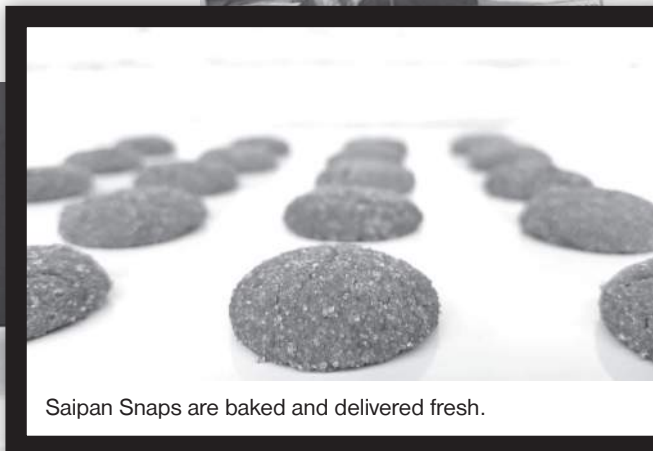
For more information, call (670) 287-9395

Saipan Snaps' online orders receive a free hand-crafted greeting card for any occasion.

and delivered fresh. Our delicious ginger snaps are currently available at DJ's Corner at Hyatt Regency Saipan, Shell gas stations in Susupe, Highway Express, Puerto Rico, and San Roque as well as at Payless SuperFresh & Truckload Store in Chalan Kanoa and at Guam Foody's locations," she added.

Established two years ago,

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS



Saipan Snaps are baked and delivered fresh.



Saipan Snaps is available at DJ's Corner at Hyatt Regency Saipan, Shell gas stations in Susupe, Highway Express, Puerto Rico, and San Roque as well as at Payless SuperFresh & Truckload Store in Chalan Kanoa and at Guam Foody's locations

Arenovski said that the recipe that she uses for the cookies is the same that she has made in her home over many years for family and friends. "The

colorful packaging reflects our islands' beauty and locally grown ginger is baked into every ginger snap."

For more information, call

(670) 287-9395 or email: saipansnaps@gmail.com. Check out their Facebook page: Saipan Snaps and website: www.saipansnaps.com.

Hit hard by virus, fine dining finds new ways to serve

San Francisco chef Dominique Crenn was huddled with staff one day in mid-March when she learned that coronavirus restrictions would close the dining room at her celebrated restaurant, Atelier Crenn. Immediately, everyone started brainstorming.

"We said, 'OK, who are we? We are people at the service of people, always here to feed the community,'" Crenn said.

Since then, Crenn and a skeleton crew—20 of the 70 people she usually employs—have made hundreds of meals for medical workers and firefighters. They've sent meals to a nearby domestic violence shelter. They've started a takeout business, selling multi-course tasting menus—a seven-course luxury kit

is \$145—and even a wine tasting kit.

Crenn is in good company. Chefs at many of the world's best restaurants are making quick pivots to weather the coronavirus. Some say carry-out has been so popular that they'll continue when dining rooms reopen. Others stayed closed but made meals for their furloughed staff.

Alinea in Chicago used to welcome guests with a \$365, 18-course tasting menu; it's now cooking up a six-course to-go feast for \$49.95. Copenhagen's Noma, which usually requires reservations months ahead, opened an outdoor burger and wine bar. Les Amis in Singapore is selling grocery items like artisanal butter and caviar.

Restaurants were hit hard by the new coronavirus. In the U.S. alone, the industry lost 6 million jobs in March and April. But fine dining was hit hardest of all, says David Portalatin, an industry adviser with The NPD Group. At the low point, in April, U.S. fine dining transactions were down 82% from a year ago, he said.

Fourteen U.S. restaurants—including Atelier Crenn and Alinea—have earned the highest rating of three stars from the Michelin Guide. Of those, just one—The Inn at Little Washington in rural Virginia—has reopened its dining room at half capacity. The restaurant put mannequins at its empty tables to make the space look more inviting.

Watchdogs: Treasury too secretive on small business loans

NEW YORK (AP)—The Trump administration has relented to public pressure and pledged to provide more details about which small businesses received loans from a \$600 billion-plus coronavirus aid program. But government watchdogs say even more transparency is needed to get an accurate picture of who was helped, and who was left out.

Under pressure from Democratic lawmakers and government watchdogs, the Treasury Department and the Small Business Administration said Friday they would disclose the names of small business owners who received \$150,000 or more in forgivable loans. The agencies will reveal the general amount these businesses received, their address, demographic data and the number of jobs they helped protect.

But for loans of less than \$150,000, the agencies will not

name the recipients, revealing only summary information broken down by zip code, industry and demographics.

Experts say this could paint an incomplete or misleading picture. Recipients of smaller loans could be part of a bigger subsidiary that would be hidden, and it won't be clear what percentage of loans went to minority-owned businesses.

A factory located in a minority neighborhood, for example, could be owned by an individual or conglomerate based elsewhere.

The administration's new approach on disclosure "is a big deal compared to where we were, but it's not enough to have confidence that this money is going to the right people, who actually urgently need it," said Danielle Brian, executive director of the non-partisan Project On Government Oversight.

Treasury Department spokespeople didn't respond

to a request for comment Saturday, although Secretary Steven Mnuchin has previously said he is concerned about business owners' privacy.

Sen. Marco Rubio, the Florida Republican who heads the Senate Small Business Committee, said Friday that Treasury's plan to disclose more information strikes the right balance.

As of Friday, the SBA said it had processed 4.6 million loans worth about \$512 billion. Nearly 75% of the money approved so far has gone to businesses borrowing more than \$150,000. But 86% of the loans have gone to businesses borrowing less than \$150,000, according to the SBA.

The Paycheck Protection Program started in early April and runs out at the end of the month. The loans can be forgiven if businesses use the money to keep employees on payroll or rehire workers who have been laid off.

Nation

2nd wave of virus cases? Experts say we're still in the 1st

What's all this talk about a "second wave" of U.S. coronavirus cases?

In *The Wall Street Journal* last week, Vice President Mike Pence wrote in a piece headlined "There Isn't a Coronavirus 'Second Wave'" that the nation is winning the fight against the virus.

Many public health experts, however, suggest it's no time to celebrate. About 120,000 Americans have died from the new virus and daily counts of new cases in the U.S. are the highest they've been in more than a month, driven by alarming recent increases in the South and West.

But there is at least one point of agreement: "Second wave" is probably the wrong term to describe what's happening.

"When you have 20,000-plus infections per day, how can you talk about a second wave?" said Dr. Anthony Fauci of the National Institutes of Health. "We're in the first wave. Let's get out of the first wave before you have a second wave."

Clearly there was an initial infection peak in April as cases exploded in New York City. After schools and businesses were closed across the country, the rate of new cases dropped somewhat.

But "it's more of a plateau,



In this Thursday, May 28, 2020 file photo, a fence outside Brooklyn's Green-Wood Cemetery is adorned with tributes to victims of COVID-19 in New York.

or a mesa," not the trough after a wave, said Caitlin Rivers, a disease researcher at Johns Hopkins University's Center for Health Security.

Scientists generally agree the nation is still in its first wave of coronavirus infec-

tions, albeit one that's dipping in some parts of the country while rising in others.

"This virus is spreading around the United States and hitting different places with different intensity at different times," said Dr. Richard Bess-

er, chief executive of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation who was acting director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention when a pandemic flu hit the U.S. in 2009.

Dr. Arnold Monto, a University of Michigan flu expert,

echoed that sentiment.

"What I would call this is continued transmission with flare-ups," he said.

Flu seasons sometimes feature a second wave of infections. But in those cases, the second wave is a distinct new

surge in cases from a strain of flu that is different than the strain that caused earlier illnesses.

That's not the case in the coronavirus epidemic.

Monto doesn't think "second wave" really describes what's happening now, calling it "totally semantics."

"Second waves are basically in the eye of the beholder," he said.

But Besser said semantics matter, because saying a first wave has passed may give people a false sense that the worst is over.

Some worry a large wave of coronavirus might occur this fall or winter—after schools reopen, the weather turns colder and less humid, and people huddle inside more. That would follow seasonal patterns seen with flu and other respiratory viruses. And such a fall wave could be very bad, given that there's no vaccine or experts think most Americans haven't had the virus.

But the new coronavirus so far has been spreading more episodically and sporadically than flu, and it may not follow the same playbook.

"It's very difficult to make a prediction," Rivers said. "We don't know the degree to which this virus is seasonal, if at all." (AP)

Trump's intended show of political force falls short of mark

TULSA, Okla. (AP)—President Donald Trump used his comeback rally to try to define the upcoming election as a choice between national heritage and left-wing radicalism, but his intended show of political force during the pandemic was thousands short of a full house and partly overshadowed by new coronavirus cases among his campaign staff.

Trump ignored health warnings and held his first rally in 110 days in what was one of the largest indoor gatherings in the world during an outbreak that has killed about 120,000 Americans and put 40 million out of work. The rally Saturday night in Tulsa was meant to restart his reelection effort less than five months before the November election.

"The choice in 2020 is very simple," Trump said. "Do you want to bow before the left-wing mob, or do you want to stand up tall and proud as Americans?"

After a three-month break from rallies, Trump returned to regular themes, including boasts about the pre-pandemic economy and complaints about the media. He made no mention of some of the flashpoints roiling the nation, including the

abrupt firing of a U.S. attorney in Manhattan, the damaging new book from his former national security adviser or the killing of George Floyd.

Trump aired pent-up grievances about the coronavirus, which he mocked as the "Kung flu," a racist term for COVID-19, which originated in China. He tried to defend his handling of the pandemic, even as cases continue to surge in many states, including Oklahoma.

He complained that robust testing was making his record look bad and suggested the testing effort should slow down. "Here's the bad part. When you do testing to that extent, you're going to find more cases," Trump said. "So I said to my people, 'Slow the testing down.' They test and they test."

In response, Trump's Democratic opponent, Joe Biden, tweeted, "Speed up the testing."

A White House adviser, Peter Navarro, told CNN's "State of the Union" on Sunday that Trump's remark was "tongue in cheek."

In the hours before the rally, crowds were significantly lighter than expected, and campaign officials scrapped plans for Trump to speak at an overflow space outdoors.

Inside the 19,000-seat BOK Center, Trump thundered that "the silent majority is stronger than ever before." Tulsa Fire Department spokesperson Andy Little said the city fire marshal's office reported a crowd of just less than 6,200 in the arena.

Trump tried to explain away the crowd size by blaming the media for scaring people and by insisting there were protesters outside who were "doing bad things." Hundreds of demonstrators flooded the city's downtown streets and blocked traffic at times, but police reported just a handful of arrests.

Before the rally, Trump's campaign disclosed that that six staff members who were helping set up for the event had tested positive for the coronavirus. Campaign communications director Tim Murtaugh said neither the affected staffers nor anyone who was in immediate contact with them would attend the event.

The president raged to aides that those positive cases had been made public, according to two White House and campaign officials who spoke on condition of anonymity because they weren't authorized to speak publicly about private conversations.

1 man dead, 11 people wounded in Minneapolis shooting

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—A shooting in a popular Minneapolis nightlife area early Sunday left one man dead and 11 people wounded in a chaotic scene that sent people ducking into restaurants and other businesses for cover.

The shooting broke out shortly after midnight in the city's trendy Uptown neighborhood, a nightlife hub with bars, restaurants and retail including Apple and Fjallraven stores.

Police first said 10 people had been shot with "various severity levels of injuries," but revised their total upward in a tweet posted just after 3 a.m. The man died at the hospital, not at the scene, they said. None of the other injuries were considered life-threatening.

Police said they believe there was more than one shooter, described only as "individuals on foot." No one was in custody, and police have not said what may have prompted the shooting. All of the injured were adults.

Minneapolis Police Chief Medaria Arradondo said during a Sunday press conference that it was "tragic and senseless violence" and called the

recent uptick in violent crime a public health crisis. He said "we absolutely do have several leads" on suspects and are getting assistance from the FBI and state agencies.

In video posted to Facebook that showed the immediate aftermath, screams could be heard as small crowds of people gathered, with some crouched over people lying on the pavement before police officers on bicycles showed up to attend to them.

Fred Hwang, a manager at Hoban Korean BBQ, said he was working the front door when he heard shots from the sidewalk a couple of storefronts down. Hwang described hearing "a lot of shots" and said it appeared to be groups of people shooting at each other.

"People were trying to rush inside the restaurant for safety," he said. "It was a very scary experience. ... We have bullet holes inside our restaurant like on the walls and stuff. All of our front glass was broken and shattered. Then, just like people being in here panicking and running around, breaking this or that, it was very chaotic."

Across the street from where the shooting began, in a storefront shared by the Uptown Theater and a shoe store, a police officer later Sunday surveyed a shattered window and door and a bullet hole could be seen in the storefront.

The Uptown area is about 3 miles (5 kilometers) west of the Minneapolis commercial area and neighborhood hit by rioting in the wake of George Floyd's May 25 death after being arrested by Minneapolis police. Some of the violence from that period reached as far as Uptown, and many storefronts are still protected by plywood.

Floyd's death has sparked a move to overhaul the Minneapolis Police Department, with a majority of City Council members pledging support for dismantling a department that many community activists have called brutal and racist. That's prompted pushback from opponents who question how residents will be protected from violent crime. Even the most aggressive proponents for change have acknowledged it's many months away and they're not sure what it will look like.

Asia

China may enact Hong Kong security law at end of June

BEIJING (AP)—China's top lawmaking body has announced a three-day session for the end of this month, a move that raises the possibility of the enactment of a national security law for Hong Kong that has stirred debate and fears in the semi-autonomous territory.

The official Xinhua News Agency said Sunday that the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress would meet from June 28 to 30 in Beijing.

The brief report did not mention the Hong Kong security law among several possible discussion items, but it could still be on the agenda or added at the meeting.

China released some details of the legislation late Saturday, heightening fears that the central government is tightening its grip on Hong Kong after months of anti-government protests last year.

Under the draft, the central government would set up a national security office in Hong Kong that would collect and analyze intelligence and deal with criminal cases related to national security.

Hong Kong police and courts would maintain jurisdiction over cases, but the law would allow an exception for Chinese authorities to exercise jurisdiction over "a tiny number of criminal cases ... under specific circumstances," according to a Xinhua report.

It did not provide any details on what those circumstances might be.

The stationing of Chinese



Hong Kong activist Joshua Wong attends an activity for the upcoming Legislative Council elections in Hong Kong Saturday, June 20, 2020.

security officials in Hong Kong and their involvement in law enforcement would arguably be the most significant erosion to date of Hong Kong's autonomy in local affairs under the "one country, two systems" principle that has guided the city since Britain returned the former colony to China in 1997.

The draft says the new security law would prevail if local Hong Kong laws are inconsistent with it, Xinhua said. It would require the Hong Kong government to create a national security commission supervised by the central government. Beijing would also appoint a national security adviser for the city.

The timing of the upcoming legislative session is unusual, coming just one week after a three-day meeting that ended Saturday, and suggests that China may be aiming to pass the law ahead of a July 1 holiday that marks Hong Kong's re-

turn to China. The Standing Committee of the National People's Congress typically meets every two months.

Last year, anti-government protesters smashed their way into the locked Hong Kong legislative complex on the anniversary, spray painting slogans on the walls and damaging the electronic voting system. The months of protests, in which Chinese flags were trampled on and the Chinese emblem on its Hong Kong office defaced, prompted the central government's decision to enact the law.

Hong Kong's leader, Carrie Lam, called the draft law "a significant initiative ... at a critical moment" to ensure the long-term prosperity and stability of the city of 7.5 million people.

The law will criminalize four acts: secession, subversion of state power, terrorist activities and colluding with foreign forces to endanger national security.

S. Korea urges North not to send leaflets amid high tensions

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—South Korea on Monday urged North Korea to scrap a plan to launch propaganda leaflets across the border, after the North said it's ready to float 12 million leaflets in what would be the largest such psychological campaign against its southern rival.

Animosities on the Korean Peninsula rose sharply last week, after North Korea destroyed an inter-Korean liaison office on its territory in anger over South Korean civilian leafletting against it. North Korea said it will fly propaganda leaflets and take other steps to nullify 2018 deals that were meant to ease military tensions at the border.

Yoh Sangkey, a spokesman at Seoul's Unification Minis-

try, told reporters that North Korea must suspend its plan to send anti-Seoul leaflets that "are not helpful to South-North (Korea) relations at all."

Earlier Monday, North Korea said it had manufactured 12 million propaganda leaflets to be floated toward South Korea aboard 3,000 balloons and other unspecified delivery equipment.

"Our plan of distributing the leaflets against the enemy is an eruption of the unquenchable anger of all the people and the whole society," the North's official Korean Central News Agency said. "The time for retaliatory punishment is drawing near."

Some observers say ongoing weather conditions aren't favorable for North Korea to

fly balloons into the South so it may use drones to deliver the leaflets. They say this could trigger clashes between the Koreas because South Korea must respond to incoming drones to its territory.

A South Korean activist recently said he would also drop about a million leaflets over the border around Thursday, the 70th anniversary of the start of the 1950-53 Korean War. South Korean officials have said they'll ban civilian activists from launching balloons toward North Korea.

Experts say North Korea is likely focusing on the South Korean civilian leafletting to boost its internal unity and apply more pressures on Seoul and Washington amid stalled nuclear diplomacy.

World

WHO reports largest one-day increase in coronavirus cases

GENEVA (AP)—The World Health Organization on Sunday reported the largest single-day increase in coronavirus cases by its count, at more than 183,000 new cases in the latest 24 hours.

The UN health agency said Brazil led the way with 54,771 cases tallied and the U.S. next at 36,617. Over 15,400 came in in India.

Experts said rising case counts can reflect multiple factors including more widespread testing as well as broader infection.

Overall in the pandemic, WHO reported 8,708,008 cases—183,020 in the last 24 hours—with 461,715 deaths worldwide, with a daily increase of 4,743.

More than two-thirds of those new deaths were reported in the Americas.

In Spain, officials ended a national state of emergency after three months of lockdown, allowing its 47 million residents to freely travel around the country for the first time since March 14. The country also dropped a 14-day quarantine for visitors from Britain and the 26 European countries that allow visa-free travel.

But there was only a

trickle of travelers at Madrid-Barajas Airport, which on a normal June day would be bustling.

"This freedom that we now have, not having to justify our journey to see our family and friends, this was something that we were really looking forward to," Pedro Delgado, 23, said after arriving from Spain's Canary Islands.

Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez urged people to take maximum precautions: "The virus can return and it can hit us again in a second wave, and we have to do whatever we can to avoid that at all cost."

At a campaign rally in Tulsa, Oklahoma, Trump said Saturday the U.S. has tested 25 million people, but the "bad part" is that it found more cases.

"When you do testing to that extent, you're going to find more people, you're going to find more cases," Trump said. "So I said to my people, 'Slow the testing down, please.'"

White House trade adviser Peter Navarro said on CNN that Trump was being "tongue-in-cheek" and made the comment in a

"light mood."

Democratic rival Joe Biden's campaign accused Trump of "putting politics ahead of the safety and economic well-being of the American people."

The U.S. has the world's highest number of reported infections, over 2.2 million, and the highest death toll, at about 120,000, according to Johns Hopkins. Health officials say robust testing is vital for tracking outbreaks and keeping the virus in check.

In England, lockdown restrictions prevented druids, pagans and party-goers on Sunday from watching the sun rise at the ancient circle of Stonehenge to mark the summer solstice, the longest day of the year in the Northern Hemisphere. English Heritage, which runs the site, livestreamed it instead. A few people gathered outside the fence.

"You can't cancel the sunrise," druid Arthur Pendragon told the BBC.

The number of confirmed virus cases is still growing rapidly not only in the U.S. but in Brazil, South Africa and other countries, especially in Latin America.

Long-dreaded virus increase hits Iraq as new cases soar

BAGHDAD (AP)—In Baghdad's vast exhibition grounds, masked workers lugged hospital beds into rows for makeshift coronavirus wards, as doctors and officials sounded the alarm Sunday over a surge in virus cases in the capital.

The long-dreaded scenario is gripping the country amid a severe economic crisis brought on by plummeting oil prices. But with a widening budget deficit, doctors are running low on medical equipment, including key protective gear. A cap on new hires is also expected to strain the already overstretched system.

As hospitals overflowed with patients, the Iraqi government announced temporary field hospitals will open throughout Baghdad, where infections are highest, to cope with the exponentially rising number of virus patients. Iraq's health system was already battered by years of conflict as well as poor infrastructure and lack of funds.

Work to erect the field

hospital in the fair grounds began Saturday, and it will eventually provide beds for 400 men and 100 women. When the supply of hospital cots ran out, workers brought in metal-framed single beds.

"God willing, there will be future plans to increase the number of beds and field hospitals," said Mouhamed Bander, an engineer with the Al-Aqiq institution for charity. His organization set up the wards in tandem with the ministries of health and trade.

Virus cases began rising after the Muslim holy month of Ramadan, when families and friends typically get together to break the daylong fast. In less than a month, infections spiked seven-fold to over 30,868 as of Sunday, up from less than 4,000 at the end of May. Deaths also spiked, with over 1,100 killed among the confirmed cases, according to Health Ministry figures.

Among the recent dead was legendary Iraqi soccer star Ahmed Radhi, 56, who died Sunday due to virus

complications after fighting for over a week. He was beloved for scoring his country's first and only World Cup goal in 1986, and was also a political figure.

Iraq qualified for the World Cup just once, and Radhi's goal is a source of pride for Iraqis, many of whom mourned his death on social media.

The troubling increase in cases was due to more testing, but also a lack of public adherence to government measures, said Health Ministry spokesman Saif al-Badr. Testing increased from nearly 4,000 a day last month to over 13,000 in recent days. By next week, he said 20,000 samples will be examined daily.

Iraq took drastic measures to stem the virus's spread, including closing schools, restaurants, public gatherings and international borders.

Despite the additional field hospitals in place, doctors on the front lines fear these measures won't be enough to absorb the rising number of infections.

Overdrive

By HENRY PAYNE
THE DETROIT NEWSHyundai Sonata Hybrid
has OMG mpg and looks

They should have named the Hyundai Sonata the “Hyundai OMG.” The mid-size sedan is a non-stop wow emoji.

There was the February Super Bowl ad featuring Boston celebrity jaws dropping in unison as actor John Krasinski demonstrated the Sonata’s self-parking feature. “Smaht pahk!” We couldn’t get it out of our heads. OMG.

I couldn’t get the Sonata’s good looks out of my head the first time I saw it. It still turns my head—like the other day when an all-black Sonata rolled my way, its signature LED running lights giving it a sinister look. The black Audi A4 behind it looked ... almost as good. OMG.

Now comes the Hyundai Sonata Hybrid boasting the best fuel economy in class: 52 mpg. OMG.

At least on paper. In practice the hybrid is the least OMG feature of the Sonatas I’ve tested. And it still leaves me thirsting for the Sonata N performance version that will couple the car’s tight handling with an alleged 295 horsepower. I tasted the N earlier this year on windy roads through Arizona and it was a treat.

Until its arrival, drivetrains aren’t the Sonata’s strong suit. And that’s not just because I’ve got a lead foot instead of a green thumb. Indeed, I’ve been impressed by the industry’s latest hybrids, particularly new value entries from compact SUVs like the Ford Escape, Honda CRV and Toyota RAV4, which have exhibited feisty character even as they sipped gas from the pump.

But the Sonata Hybrid was surprisingly tepid. Especially since it gains 12 more horsepower than the regular Sonata’s turbocharged 1.6-liter 4-cylinder.



The 2020 Hyundai Sonata Limited hybrid.

(MARK PHELAN/DETROIT FREE PRESS/TNS)

der. The regular Sonata’s 1.6-liter made me yearn for the Sonata N—and the Sonata Hybrid made me yearn for the 1.6-liter.

Where the Escape and CRV hybrids use their electric motor for an electrifying kick off the line, the Sonata seems to maximize the battery for that OMG mpg. The Hybrid’s acceleration is sleepy. The hand-off from electric to gas is as smooth as a middle-school track relay, with the 2.0-liter engine shouting as if someone stepped on its foot.

But Payne, you say, no one buying a green car is going to drive it hard. And sure enough, the Sonata cruises effortlessly at speed, its electronics maximizing the drivetrain for 30% fewer shifts. Green fans will also geek out on the car’s active grill flaps, underbody cover and unique rear spoiler to achieve a remarkable 0.24 drag coefficient so the sedan cuts through the air like a knife.

But I’ve been spoiled, dear

reader, by the Ford and Honda hybrids’ dexterity, and the Sonata is not in their league. What’s more, my week in the premium Hyundai Hybrid Limited returned just 35 mpg—a far cry from the advertised 47 mpg.

That 52 mpg I spoke of belongs to the starter Hyundai Hybrid Blue model, which retails for \$28,725—with a \$30,875 SEL and Limited model clocking in at \$36,275. The latter pair achieve 47 mpg.

Those prices are in contrast to, say, the Honda CRV Hybrid, which is a ridiculous bargain at just \$27,000 with lots of pep, 38 mpg and all the inherent advantages of SUVs like hatchback storage, all-wheel-drive and rear-seat headroom.

So the Sonata Hybrid will have to sell itself on sex appeal. And in that area it is loaded.

Every time I got annoyed with the Hybrid’s awkward drivetrain, I would stand back and ogle its curves.

The heavily sculpted sides

(with this much stamped sheet metal how does the standard Sonata start at just \$23,000?) sweep rearward to a gorgeous tail-section, a Lincoln-like horizontal taillight graphic providing the perfect punctuation. There is exquisite detail—like the delicate winglets on the taillight to aid aerodynamic flow and the signature LED running lights that parallel the hood.

The standard Sonata grille is distinctive like the mouth of a carp. Too big. The hybrid tones it down with some elegant chrome piping and a sweeping lower chrome piece that echoes the rear taillight. But the Hybrid Limited exterior’s OMG feature is the solar roof. Yes, a solar roof.

Embedded in the black sweep of the coupe-like greenhouse you can make out subtle traces etched to and fro to catch the sun. Dramatic looking, though less dramatic in operation. Hyundai says the solar roof will gain the driver 2 miles on a tank of gas. Like

the drivetrain, it’s not worth the premium price in my book ... but it’s a talker.

The interior on my Limited model was even more stunning, the seats swathed in tanned leather, the instruments fully digital.

The dash reminds of a Mercedes, which indicates just how high this mainstream sedan has aimed. A fully digital cockpit and infotainment display flows across the horizontal dash. The Hyundai can’t match the Mercedes’ exquisite detail—what can?—but the graphics are engaging and Sonata Hybrid does it all for tens of thousands of dollars less. No other sedan in class can match it.

The console offers more luxury touches, including a so-called “trigger shifter” that I first encountered on the Acura NSX supercar, of all things. I fell in love with it on the Acura and find Hyundai’s version just as useful. It’s different without being annoying—while also saving console space for knick-knack and smartphone storage.

The infotainment system features are useful, particularly Apple CarPlay and Android Auto navigation that allow the sedan luxe-like navigation skills. Drill deeper and you’ll find—yes, another OMG moment.

While most drivers will be content to play their own music, streaming services or Sirius XM’s multiple channels, Hyundai offers another escape: Sounds of Nature.

There are the soothing sounds of Snowy Village and Warm Fireplace. And Open Air Cafe, Calm Sea Waves and Lively Forest. Mrs. Payne

balked at Rainy Day because she found it dreary. But the sounds are a reminder of Hyundai’s determination to make the Sonata a unique experience.

Available with the nav package, the feature’s also available on other Sonatas—not just the hybrid. Which brings me back to the question of the hybrid’s value. Indeed, the hybrid is oddly missing the “Smaht pahk” feature that got everyone all worked up about the Sonata in the first place.

Sonata says it’s coming, which is good thing because when you’re paying 36 grand for a sedan you want all the OMG you can get.

NUTS & BOLTS

2020 Hyundai Sonata Hybrid

- Vehicle type: Front-engine, front-wheel drive, 5-passenger sedan
- Price: \$28,725, including \$975 destination charge (\$36,275 Limited as tested)
- Powerplant: 2.0-liter inline 4-cylinder mated to AC motor and lithium-ion battery
- Transmission: 6-speed automatic
- Power: 192 horsepower (combined system output)
- Weight: 3,530 pounds as tested
- Performance: 0-60 mph, 8.0 seconds (Car and Driver est.); top speed, 120 mph
- Fuel economy: EPA est. mpg: 50 city/54 highway/52 combined (Hybrid Blue); 45 city/51 highway/47 combined (Hybrid SEL and Limited)
- Report card**
- Highs: 47-52 mpg; luxury-class interior
- Lows: Granola performance; pricey compared to competitive SUV hybrids

Under the Hood: How to keep your vehicle’s battery charge during coronavirus lockdown

Q: Our household has three cars for two retired drivers, and with the coronavirus shelter-in-place order, we don’t drive them much to recharge their batteries. I try to use a different car every time I go to stores or whatever, just to charge the battery and warm up the engine to circulate the oil. But that may be only once or twice a week. I do have a battery charger, which I haven’t had to use yet, but some cars are a little harder to connect to the charger. I have a 2005 Mercedes, 2017 BMW X1 and 2019 BMW X3.

Will the car’s charging system charge with the car at

idle? Is there a higher charging rate at 1,500 rpm or while the car is driven, so the battery will charge up faster?

A: Great questions! Modern vehicles, with so many control modules requiring memory functions and wake-up capability, can have a fairly high rate of parasitic load (battery drain while parked). Some vehicles can go from being driven and parked to a discharged battery (poor or no start) in as little as a couple of weeks, although most last longer.

Here are a few rough figures to work with. A typical car or truck battery will still start the engine down to about the point of being half charged.

To restore such a battery to full charge one must apply perhaps 40 amps of electrical current for one hour (40 amp hours). This can be done slowly with a small charger, let’s say at a rate of four amps for 10 hours, or with a larger pro grade charger, perhaps at 20 amps for two hours.

If you find any of these cars start easily (the starter spins quickly), battery status is likely quite good, and a short drive or idling for 10 to 15 minutes may be adequate to keep the battery full, if done once every two weeks. If slower cranking is noted, a half hour drive once a week should do the trick.

To answer your question,

a typical car or truck alternator can produce perhaps half of its rated output at idle, and full output at 2,000 rpm or more (engine speed). Alternator capacity (output) can range from approximately 70 to 200 amps, depending on the vehicle. The Mercedes is likely 120 amps (unsure of the model) and the BMWs should be 210 and 180 amps. All three cars should refill a discharged battery fairly quickly either while idling or being driven.

Connecting a battery charger is a pain, and choosing the best charge rate and managing the time interval isn’t fun either. An easy to

By BRAD BERGHOLDT
Tribune News Service

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deal with slow/long charging method could be a 5 watt solar panel atop the instrument panel (ICP or Battery Tender are two I like), plugged into the OBD-II data connector (parked outside facing the sun), or a Battery Tender Junior 120V maintenance charger (in the garage) plugged in the same way. The lighter/

accessory socket of many cars is unfortunately not active when it is parked. Both of these methods should compensate for parasitic load fairly well, making it unnecessary to periodically run the engine. These two companies are among the few offering the convenient OBD-II connection.

Life & Style

Comedian DL Hughley COVID-19 positive after fainting onstage

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—Comedian D.L. Hughley announced he tested positive for COVID-19 after collapsing onstage during a performance in Nashville, Tennessee.

The stand-up comedian, 57, lost consciousness while performing at the Zanies comedy nightclub on Friday night and was hospitalized, news outlets reported. On Saturday, Hughley posted a video on Twitter in which he said he was treated for exhaustion and dehydration afterward.

"I also tested positive for COVID-19, which blew me away," he says in the video. "I was what they call asymptomatic. I didn't have any symptoms, the classic symptoms."

Hughley plans to quarantine in his Nashville hotel room for 14 days. The remaining two nights of his four-night engagement at Zanies were canceled, according to the club's online calendar.

"Our friend D.L. Hughley had a medical emergency while performing on Friday and was

hospitalized overnight. According to his publicist, he was suffering from exhaustion after working & traveling this week," the club posted on Facebook. "Love ya, D.L. and we'll look forward to seeing this King of Comedy back in Nashville soon!"

Hughley said he still hasn't exhibited any of the typical symptoms associated with the coronavirus, including shortness

of breath and fever. However, fatigue is listed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention as among symptoms of the disease.

"So, in addition to all the other stuff you have to look out for," Hughley advises in the video, if you "pass out in the middle of a show, onstage, you



Hughley

probably need to get tested."

In addition to stand-up comedy, Hughley is also an actor, author and radio and television host. He starred in Spike Lee's 2000 concert film, "The Original Kings of Comedy," alongside Steve Harvey, Bernie Mac and Cedric the Entertainer.

Hughley also produced and starred in "The Hughleys," which aired on ABC and UPN from 1998 to 2002 and hosted a CNN talk show. He currently hosts the radio show "The D.L. Hughley Show," which is syndicated in dozens of markets.

"Thank you for your prayers and your well wishes—and a few more of them wouldn't hurt," Hughley says in the video.

Pirated editions of John Bolton memoir have appeared online

NEW YORK (AP)—John Bolton's memoir officially comes out Tuesday after surviving a security review and a legal challenge from the Justice Department. But over the weekend, it was available in ways even his publisher is hoping to prevent.

A PDF of "The Room Where It Happened" has turned up on the internet, offering a free, pirated edition of the former national security adviser's scathing takedown of President Donald Trump, who has alleged that the book contains classified material that never should have been released.

"We are working assiduously to take down these clearly illegal instances of copyright infringement," Simon & Schuster spokesperson Adam Rothberg said Sunday.

Piracy has long been a top concern among publishers, especially in the digital age, although the actual impact on

sales is undetermined. "The Room Where It Happened" has been No. 1 for days on the Amazon.com bestseller list. The Associated Press was among several news outlets that obtained early copies of the book and reported on its contents.

On Saturday, a federal judge ruled that Simon & Schuster could publish the book despite the Trump administration's contention that it compromised national security. "The Room Where It Happened" was originally scheduled for March, but was delayed twice as the White House reviewed the manuscript.

Bolton's legal team has said that he spent months addressing White House concerns about classified information and that Bolton had been assured in late April by the official he was working with that the manuscript no longer contained any such material.

NEW YORK (AP)—The American Museum of Natural History will remove a prominent statue of Theodore Roosevelt from its entrance after years of objections that it symbolizes colonial expansion and racial discrimination, Mayor Bill de Blasio said Sunday.

The bronze statue that has stood at the museum's Central Park West entrance since 1940 depicts Roosevelt on horseback with a Native American man and an African man standing next to the horse.

"The American Museum of Natural History has asked to remove the Theodore Roosevelt statue because it explicitly depicts Black and



Indigenous people as subjugated and racially inferior," de Blasio said in a written statement. "The City supports the Museum's request. It is the right decision and the right time to remove this

problematic statue."

The museum's president, Ellen Futter, told the New York Times that the museum's "community has been profoundly moved by the ever-widening movement for racial

^{AP}
In this Nov. 17, 2017 file photo, visitors to the American Museum of Natural History in New York look at a statue of Theodore Roosevelt, flanked by a Native American man and African American man.

justice that has emerged after the killing of George Floyd."

"We have watched as the attention of the world and the country has increasingly turned to statues as powerful and hurtful symbols of systemic racism," Futter told the Times.

Officials said it hasn't been determined when the Roosevelt statue will be removed and where it will go.

Did TikTok teens, K-Pop fans punk Trump's comeback rally?

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)—Did teens, TikTok users and fans of Korean pop music troll the president of the United States?

For more than a week before Donald Trump's first campaign rally in three months on Saturday in Tulsa, Oklahoma, these tech-savvy groups opposing the president mobi-

lized to reserve tickets for an event they had no intention of attending. While it's unlikely they were responsible for the low turnout, their antics may have inflated the campaign's expectations for attendance numbers that led to Saturday's disappointing show.

"My 16 year old daughter

and her friends in Park City Utah have hundreds of tickets. You have been rolled by America's teens," veteran Republican campaign strategist Steve Schmidt tweeted on Saturday. The tweet garnered more than 100,000 likes and many responses from people who say they or their kids did

the same.

Reached by telephone Sunday, Schmidt called the rally an "unmitigated disaster"—days after Trump campaign chairman Brad Parscale tweeted that more than a million people requested tickets for the rally through Trump's campaign website.

Seeing son's killer go free opens old wounds for family

DEAR ABBY: My son was murdered four years ago by a supposed friend. Despite a 10-year sentence, the murderer was released from prison this month.

The perpetrator and my son had some mutual friends. When I go onto the convicted manslayer's Facebook page, he has many people congratulating and welcoming him home.

The murderer has not once apologized or shown remorse. He was on home incarceration for six months before he was sentenced for manslaughter, and during that time, he impregnated his girlfriend instead of thinking about the devastation he's caused my family. My son will NEVER have a family.

Instead of announcing to his Facebook friends and family that he's on his way home and that he is home, I feel he should keep his mouth shut and live a quiet life. I cannot believe that murderers and rapists receive respect and congratulations once they reenter society. Do people not recognize the devastation that has been caused to surviving family members of the victim? Or do they no longer care until something like this affects them and their families?

HURT AGAIN IN KENTUCKY

DEAR HURT AGAIN: Please accept my sympathy for the tragic loss of your son. Nothing can take away the pain of losing a child, let alone at the hand of another person. The family and friends of the person who killed your son

appear to have lost sight of the reason for his incarceration. But viewed from another perspective, they are happy to have their loved one back with them, which is why they are posting welcome messages.

A resource that might help you is the National Organization of Parents of Murdered Children Inc. You can find it by going to pomc.com. I hope you will give it a try. My heart goes out to you.

DEAR ABBY: Sometimes the simplest situations make me wonder the most. Recently we needed to use the local ATM. When we drove by, we could see it was being filled by an armored truck. My husband said I should get in line. I looked around and saw other people waiting in their cars, so I thought I would do the same. My husband repeated that I should get out and get in line. Faced with the choice of standing in line or being nagged by my husband, I chose the former and was the first person to form a line.

After 20 minutes standing there and reading the news on my phone, the ATM guards seemed to be finished. That's when a woman approached me and said she had been waiting longer than me, albeit in her car, and I would have to go to the end of the line. I ignored her.

Soon, a guard motioned to me that the ATM was available. As I was making my withdrawal, I could hear the woman say to the others now lined up behind her that I had jumped the

DEAR ABBY

By **ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



line and she called me an expletive, which two others in line repeated. Was I wrong to have stood my ground, or should I have moved to the back?

WAITING IN TEXAS

DEAR WAITING: If you were the first person to stand at the ATM while others chose to wait in the comfort of their vehicles, you owed no one an apology. The person who was out of line (literally) was the woman who called you an expletive, and you were right to ignore her.

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby - Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Sentry's cry
5 Actor Guinness
9 Torched
12 Six-sided state
13 Netting
14 Mil. address
15 Monopoly token, e.g.
17 Sailor's chart
18 Some babies
19 Marsh growth
21 Spanish hero
24 Street edge
25 Carrots' mates
26 Candle scent
30 "— the Walrus"
31 Radiant glows
32 Bond rating
33 Kings and knights, e.g.

DOWN

1 Embrace
2 — glance
3 Felon's flight
4 Disser-tation
5 Whitaker's Oscar-winning role
6 Cask sediment
7 Computer key
8 Little angels
9 Chuckle-head
10 Apple tablet
11 First-rate
16 Group of whales
20 Before
21 Grand tale
22 Wife of Jacob
23 Told all
24 Printer's blue
26 Mooches
27 Exist
28 Poolroom prop
29 Tibetan herd
31 Concurs
34 Take to court
35 "Lover" singer
37 Chatter
38 Sir's counter-part
39 "Frozen" snow queen
40 "So be it"
41 Calendar row
44 Sashimi fish
45 Santa — winds
46 Boy king
47 Curved letter

Solution time: 22 mins.

Y	A	M	S	S	S	S	I	T	E
S	H	A	N	G	H	A	I	O	B
L	A	L	A	L	A	N	D	N	E
R	A	W	E	M	O	T	E	S	
S	C	A	L	D	D	E	E	M	
T	H	I	S	T	O	Y	L	A	N
I	F	F	S	E	W	E	D	O	O
W	E	T	L	A	N	D	M	A	R
W	I	L	I	T	O	M	M	V	
S	A	L	A	M	I	O	U		
E	D	E	N	G	A	N	L	A	N
M	I	N	G	H	E	R	O	I	N
I	N	D	I	T	R	E	N	E	T

Yesterday's answer 6-23

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:

Melissa Rauch, 40; Jason Mraz, 43; Frances McDormand, 63; Randy Jackson, 64.

Happy Birthday: Turn this year into one of opportunity, positive change and having a new lease on life. Consider what's taken place and how you can spin things to favor what you have to offer. You have plenty to gain if you are forthright and eager to please. Use your attributes diversely, and you will gain acceptance and the success you desire. Your numbers are 2, 13, 23, 29, 33, 35, 47.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): You may want to think twice before you say something you can't take back. Don't let the moon play havoc with your life. Lock away your emotions and any harsh words you might have for someone. Focus on self-improvement, not criticism. **

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Look for new ways to improve your surroundings. You'll want to spend more time at home if you feel comfortable and entertained. An emotional matter will surface. Play your cards right, and someone will give you something special. ****

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Concentrate on mastering whatever you set out to do. Learn from experience, and you will gain insight into the way things work. It's up to you to take advantage of an opportunity. Don't wait for things to come to you; seize the moment. ***

CANCER (June 21-July 22): A financial, contractual or medical gain is within reach. Do your best to take advantage of whatever comes your way. Use what you know

and do well to push you to the next level. Leave nothing to chance. ***

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Keep what you are thinking and doing a secret. Concentrate on making a positive change to the way you look and live or to your professional goals. The more time spent doing and the less spent talking about your intentions, the better. ***

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Be methodical regarding partnerships, donations or any other help you offer. Don't let others take advantage of you or pressure you into something you don't want to do. An open mind with a practical attitude will lead to positive change. ***

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Refuse to let anyone push you around. Take your responsibilities seriously, and finish what you start. It's best to work alone if you want to avoid stress. Use persuasive charm to convince others to do their own thing. Personal growth is featured. ****

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Refuse to let the changes going on around you stop you in your tracks. Look beyond what others are doing, and channel your energy into something you enjoy doing. You will outsmart anyone who tries to interfere with your plans. **

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Look at the way you've been living and the temptations that have been difficult to resist. It's time to shake things up and start anew. Begin with self-improvement and getting along better with the people who love and care about you. *****

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Put more effort into your domestic life. Make adjustments at home that will add to your comfort and create a space that you find inspiring. Discuss your plans with whoever you live with or might be affected by the changes you implement. ***



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Let your emotions push you to take over. Address sensitive issues openly to put them behind you. It's time to make personal gains that will bring you closer to the life you want to live. Personal growth is favored. ***



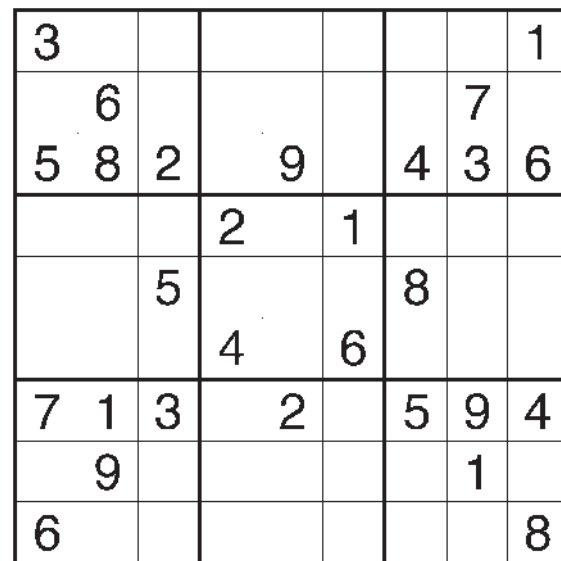
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Touch base with people you haven't seen in a long time. Set up a virtual reunion to see what everyone's doing. The information you gather will help you make decisions about the way you proceed with your life. *****
Birthday Baby: You are creative, ambitious and productive. You are sensitive and kind.

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green



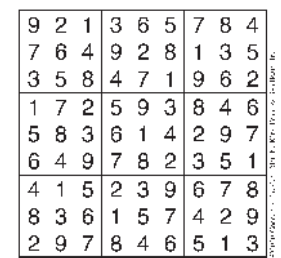
Difficulty Level ★★

6/23

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer



Difficulty Level ★

6/23

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

ROMPERS AND JUMPSUITS

Solution: 8 letters

T N A P M I N E D W A I S T O
L O O S E M O L P S V T R N V
D E E T D A E A T A R O E I E
E I N I T C L R P A H P H R R
T M R I O O I O P S I S A P A
A G O W L P C L N E S I L K L
E H L D E S K E F C G B D T B L
L T O S E S C E W E V E E L S
P G C T S R L E A I T D R A N
A N S T L F N C N R D A S Z A
T E Y I F E H V E L V E T E E
T L W U Z R B N A D Q B G R J
E D R A P E D C R U O R E A L
R L A C A P E A I L A F O L D
N S P A R T Y N D L N E N I L

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6/23

Beach, Beaded, Bell, Belt, Blazer, Bold, Cami, Cape, Color, Cotton, Cowl, Denim, Drape, Floral, Fold, Grid, Halter, Jeans, Lace, Large, Length, Linen, Long, Loose, Modern, Neckline, One Piece, Overalls, Pant, Party, Pattern, Pleated, Pockets, Print, Ruffle, Sequin, Shape, Short, Silk, Size, Sleeve, Strapless, Stripes, Style, Ties, Trend, Velvet, Waist, Wide, Wrap, Yard

Yesterday's Answer: Tectonics

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STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

NBA worried over COVID-19 spike in Florida



FLORIDA—As positive COVID-19 cases in the state of Florida continue to spike, ESPN has reported that there is concern among NBA personnel about the season resuming in Orlando.

Florida, which saw a single-day record of over 4,000 coronavirus cases on Saturday, will be the host state when the league returns to action in July. Though the 22 teams will live in a bubble in Orlando, there is a rising level of worry throughout the league as the situation in Florida continues to worsen, according to ESPN's Baxter Holmes and Zach Lowe.

ESPN reported that in a recent call that featured commis-

sioner Adam Silver, he stated that the league will continue to move forward with their plans, but the seriousness of the recent COVID-19 spike is not something that can be ignored. Additionally, ESPN stated that a virtual town hall this week led to some players expressing concern about the fact that employees at the Disney World resort will be in and out of the bubble.

With teams set to report to Orlando in early July (7-9), besides the Toronto Raptors who will report during Phase 1 of the plan in June, the NBA has already released a detailed agenda of what the bubble situation will entail. Not only will teams be limited to the area of the resort and arenas,



AP
In this Jan. 20, 2020 file photo, Utah Jazz center Rudy Gobert (27) dunks the ball as Indiana Pacers' Myles Turner, rear, and Jeremy Lamb (26) look on in the first half of an NBA game in Salt Lake City. Gobert was the first NBA player tested positive for COVID-19.

There have been expectations of a drop in the salary cap number for next season, but former Memphis Grizzlies executive John Hollinger predicted at The Athletic that the cap would likely remain flat.

The expectation is that the NBA will set the cap at roughly the same level as this year—\$109 million, with a tax line of \$123 million—and separate it from Basketball Related Income [BRI], the mechanism by which the split of money between players and teams is achieved, like the league did coming out of the 2011 lockout, and make up any potential difference that arises by increasing the escrow withholding from players. Such “smoothing” of the cap would eliminate a shock-to-the-system cap spike in 2021 and beyond, eliminating a potential severe one-or two-year drop in the cap and tax lines because of lost revenues from fans not being in arenas, followed by a burst of income whenever they are allowed to return.

In short, there would be no repeat of 2016, when the first money from the new national TV deals came into the system, and the cap jumped from \$70 million in 2015 to \$94 million the following summer.

The National Basketball Players Association opposed cap smoothing back in 2016, but in this case will likely support it. The reason is if they don't—if the league just followed the BRI formula laid out in the CBA—the salary cap would fall dramatically next season, potentially below \$100 million even if all the Orlando restart games are played (which has its challenges). This would hit teams hard, putting teams into the luxury tax that thought they would be nowhere near it. It's an outcome nobody wants.

It's going to take a few seasons to completely smooth things out because next season revenues for teams could be down as well if they have to play some—or, as the union projects, all—games without fans in the stands. Commissioner Adam Silver said 40% of league revenue was tied to fans at games.

This could lead to the owners using the force majeure to tear up the CBA and renegotiate it, which would throw open the doors to countless more financial questions around the league. (AP/ESPN)

Simpson wins storm-delayed RBC Heritage



HILTON HEAD ISLAND, S.C. (AP)—Nothing can top the first

time Webb Simpson won on Father's Day, a U.S. Open title eight years ago at Olympic Club and hearing his father's laughter on the phone to share the joy.

Harbour Town was special in its own right.

Dressed in his Sunday yellow shirt—his late father's favorite color—Simpson emerged from a crowd of contenders with five birdies in a six-hole stretch on the back nine for a 7-under 64 to win the RBC Heritage by one shot over Abraham Ancer and set the tournament scoring record.

“Crazy day,” Simpson said.

A three-hour storm delay nearly kept it from finishing. Nine players were still in the mix with an hour to go. Simpson was two shots behind and had only two birdies on his card when he dropped in a 10-footer at No. 12 and off he went.

“I think it's a good thing that guys were making birdies because they kind of forced me to be a little more aggressive and know that pars weren't going to cut it,” said Simpson, who finished at 22-under 264 to break by two shots the tournament record Brian Gay set in 2009.

Father's Day has been the final round of the U.S. Open every year since 1976, but it was moved to September in this most unusual year because of the COVID-19 pandemic that shut down golf for three months. The RBC Heritage filled the spot on the schedule and Simpson, now a father of five, became a winner for the second time this year.

“I won The Players on

Mother's Day after my dad passed away, and that was really special. That was an emotional win,” Simpson said. “U.S. Open on Father's Day, I'll never forget calling my dad after on the way to the press conference, and when he picked up the phone, he just was laughing. That's kind of what he did when he was happy, he would just laugh. So I'm going to miss that laugh today for sure.

“But I thought a lot about him,” he said. “This morning I thought about him, and when I was on the golf course, I thought about him. ... He loved golf. He would have loved watching today.”

It was quite a show.

Simpson, Ancer, Joaquin Niemann and Tyrrell Hatton were tied at 20 under at one point late in the round. It was a matter of who blinked first.

Ancer, who hit every green in regulation, pushed Simpson to the end in his bid to win his first PGA Tour title. He holed a birdie putt from 10 feet on the 17th to get within one, but his approach to the 18th was 40 feet away and his putt to force a playoff came up short. Ancer closed with a 65.

“That's just golf. You've just got to keep trying,” Ancer said. “I'm not going to change anything or work on anything. I'm just going to keep doing what I'm doing, and I think that will eventually happen.”

Colonial winner Daniel Berger also stayed in the mix by chipping in for birdie on the 17th and closing with a 65. Hatton, whose last tournament was his victory in the Arnold Palmer Invitational, was leading until a poor tee shot led to bogey on the 13th, and bogeys were hard to recover from on this day. He shot 66 and tied for third.

but constant testing will be done to ensure that any potential COVID-19 cases do not derail the season. Additionally, as players report to their individual team sites the last week of June, testing will be done there.

As for non-team personnel, the league has made sure to make interactions between players and the Orlando staff as safe as possible. Masks and social distancing will be required, and workers will not rotate between the three hotels. However, there is still some worry due to the fact that workers will head back-and-forth between the bubble and their homes in other areas, where surges have been more intense than Orlando.

“Everything that we know about Disney—and we've read over the years—is that you don't realize how many thousands of people work there,

right? That's the magic behind it all—the amount of staff and the amount of services that they provide. And they're in and out of the bubble,” an athletic trainer told ESPN.

NBPA executive director Michele Roberts told ESPN that with the way Florida handled the reopening of the state, the current problems have not come as much of a surprise. The league has worked tirelessly to put measures in place to limit the travel of players, and if need be, will do the same for workers.

“While we take some solace in knowing our players will not travel commercially to get to Orlando, that access to the campus is severely limited and, of course, all of the other health and safety protocols in place, the numbers will keep our attention,” Roberts said. “If necessary to add further restrictions respecting those

third parties having access to the campus, we will seek to implement them.”

Despite the current surge that has impacted numerous other leagues as well, the league is still moving forward with the return to play plan. There is concern, but also confidence that basketball will be able to be played in the coming months.

Salary cap next season at \$109M

This season, the NBA salary cap was set at \$109.14 million, and that was initially projected to jump to \$115 million next season. Then the NBA's controversy with China came up and hit the bottom line, which led to a projection of a \$114 million cap.

Then the NBA had to shut down due to the coronavirus. That threw salary cap planning into chaos.

Balk in baseball talks, July 19 start off

NEW YORK (AP)—An email from baseball Commissioner Rob Manfred to union head Tony Clark led to a balk in the drawn-out talks to start the pandemic-delayed season, which now won't begin by July 19.

The executive committee of the players' association was set to vote and reject Major League Baseball's latest offer for a 60-game season on Sunday.

"I really believe we are fighting over an impossibility on games," Manfred said in the email, a copy of which was obtained by The Associated Press. "The earliest we will be ready for players to report is a week from Monday, given the need to relocate teams from Florida. That leaves 66 days to play 60 games. Realistically, that is the outside of the envelope now."

Players want 70 games and \$275 million more than teams are offering. They are worried that if a resurgence of the new coronavirus causes the 2020 season to be cut short, the deal being negotiated would lock in innovations for 2021 and lessen the union's bargaining power.

"Tony, am writing to reiterate what I told you on the phone a few minutes ago," Manfred wrote. "Given the COVID-19 developments, I understand that the players are concerned that the 2020 season will be truncated beyond the agreed upon number of games (for example, we agree to play 60 and can only play 40). If that were to happen, I would be prepared to eliminate the 2021 components of the deal. That would mean that we would not get the expanded playoffs in 2021 and the DH rule would revert to the current rule (DH in AL, no DH in NL)."

Players didn't take a vote and will consider their next move Monday.

The 2020 only items in the



AP
The overall view of Dodger Stadium in Los Angeles during one of the 2018 season's games and before the global COVID-19 pandemic.

union agreed to the start date and said it should end Sept. 30, or earlier using double-headers. Both sides proposed pitchers and catchers report June 26, followed by position players two days later, but that schedule has come and gone, like the proposed Fourth of July start.

A rise in positive tests last week in Florida caused MLB to close all 30 training camps for deep cleaning and disinfecting. The Philadelphia Phillies announced Friday that five players had tested positive for COVID-19 and person familiar with the process, speaking on condition of anonymity, 40 players and team employees had tested positive as of noon EDT Sunday. MLB sent 200 COVID-19 tests to each team to be used over the weekend, the person said.

Twenty-nine of the 30 teams now intend to hold training at their regular season stadiums rather than spring training sites. Toronto may be an exception due to Canadian federal and Ontario provincial restrictions.

Manfred's email referred to another issue: termination pay for players released prior to opening day.

"I think I have previously agreed to give you full termination pay for players who were salary arbitration eligible in 2019, are on non-guaranteed contracts and are terminated in spring training," Manfred wrote. "Those players would get the numbers of days of termination pay equal to the number of games we agree to play, subject to the repayment of salary advances."

deal include starting extra innings with runner on second and a discussion of whether to allow tie games after a specified total of innings plus player re-entry in extra innings.

Some players would prefer there not be a deal and that Manfred unilaterally order the schedule. Because players insisted on full prorated pay, he threatened a schedule of about 50 games. MLB agreed to prorated pay when Manfred met with Clark last week.

The proposed deal would give Manfred the right to suspend or cancel play if "re-

strictions on travel throughout the United States are imposed" or if he determines after consulting medical experts and the union that there has been a change in circumstances posing "an unreasonable health and safety risk to players or staff to stage those games, even without fans in attendance."

MLB's proposal for 60 games includes \$1.48 billion in salary plus a \$25 million postseason players' pool, while the union's plan includes \$1.73 billion in salary

and a \$50 million pool.

Absent an agreement, the union would file a grievance claiming MLB violated the provision in the March 26 agreement recognizing "that each of the parties shall work in good faith to as soon as is practicable commence, play, and complete the fullest 2020 championship season and post-season that is economically feasible," subject to several provisions.

Those provisions say that without MLB's consent, the season shall not start until

there are no legal restrictions on playing in front of fans at the 30 regular-season ballparks, no relevant travel restrictions and no health or safety risk to players, staff or spectators to playing in the 30 regular ballparks. The agreement also says the sides "will discuss in good faith the economic feasibility of playing games in the absence of spectators or at appropriate substitute neutral sites."

MLB had proposed having the season run from July 19 or 20 through Sept. 27, the shortest since the 1870s, while the



When tennis returns: No fans, less prize money, rustiness

NEW YORK (AP)—Madison Keys, the 2017 U.S. Open runner-up, has not played a real tennis match since January, so she was thrilled when a partial schedule was released for the sport's true return after its coronavirus-forced hiatus.

"Halfway through the year, we're (usually) all kind of thinking, 'Oh, I'd love some weeks at home. Been on the road for so long. Those pressure moments in matches are so stressful' and all of that," said Keys, one of 16 women in an exhibition event in Charleston, South Carolina, next week. "And now we're all like, 'Please put me on a center court, break-point down in the third, because I would love to have that feeling again.'"

Now that there is a plan in

place for top-level tennis to resume—starting in August in Italy, then Washington, with Grand Slam action to follow in New York, then Paris, assuming the COVID-19 outbreak allows—it's time to consider ways in which the sport will look different.

There won't be fans at the U.S. Open or likely anywhere else at the outset. Players will be vying for decreased prize money, with as much as a 40% cut at the biggest non-major tournaments. U.S. Open matches on all but two courts will have a chair umpire aided by electronic line-calling, not line judges.

There surely will be rustiness for players after such

long layoffs. Could be a string of athletes getting hurt, too, if recent exhibitions are any indication.

"I don't think many of us—outside of having an injury, maybe—have gone this long without that level of competition," said Keys, an American currently ranked No. 13.

"It's really difficult to keep practicing when you don't really have a goal in mind," Keys said. "So being able to have some of these tournaments back on the calendar has been really great, even just for my mentality—just because I know I'm working for something."



There are remaining unknowns and adjustments could take place before anyone swings a racket at Flushing Meadows.

"For me, everything seems like it's going to be different at the Open—and at all these tournaments. No fans. What's the locker room situation? Where's food? Transport? There's just so many questions. And it's not going to be like any other year, any other tournament, that we've played before," said Bethanie Mattek-Sands, who's won nine women's or mixed doubles Slam titles and, like Keys, is playing in Charleston. "For me, personally, I don't think

all the questions are answered to my satisfaction."

Djokovic event canceled; Player tested positive

Grigor Dimitrov said on Sunday he has tested positive for coronavirus after pulling out of an exhibition tournament which also featured world No. 1 Novak Djokovic.

"I want to reach out and let my fans and friends know that I tested positive back in Monaco for Covid-19," world No. 19 Dimitrov wrote on Instagram.

"I am so sorry for any harm I might have caused. I am back home now and recovering."

Last weekend, Dimitrov,

29, took part in the Adria Tour event in Belgrade with Djokovic, world No. 3 Dominic Thiem and Alexander Zverev, ranked seven.

He also played in the second leg of the Balkans tournament in Zadar on Croatia's Adriatic coast on Saturday.

However, he withdrew after losing to Borna Coric, complaining of feeling unwell.

Later on Sunday, the final between Djokovic and Russia's Andrey Rublev was immediately cancelled as a precaution.

"This is the best possible decision. We have to take care about security of all involved," former Wimbledon champion Goran Ivanisevic, the tournament director of the Zadar event, said in remarks quoted by local media.

Prescott to sign \$31.4M franchise tender

 **TEXAS**—The Dallas Cowboys will have Dak Prescott in 2020, but everything

beyond that is in question. Prescott plans to sign his franchise tender Monday, according to Adam Scheffer of ESPN. The 26-year-old Prescott will make \$31.4 million in

2020 after signing the deal. The two sides still now have until July 15 to work out a long-term deal.

While that should come as welcome news for Cowboys fans, Prescott's future with the franchise is still in doubt. He and the Cowboys now have until July 15 to work out a long-term contract.

If that doesn't happen, Prescott would play 2020 on the franchise tag and then hit the free-agent market. At that point, any team could offer Prescott a mega contract. Prescott is reportedly seeking \$40 million per season. The Cowboys have shown interest in signing Prescott to a long-term deal, but haven't been able to get it done.

History suggests a long-term deal will happen. Of the eight quarterbacks to receive the tag, only two actually played under it. Both of those players—Drew Brees and Kirk Cousins—signed with another team upon reaching free agency.

Prescott has shown flashes of stardom throughout his career. After a promising rookie season, Prescott put up solid—but unspectacular—numbers in both 2017 and 2018. He broke out in 2019, however, setting career bests in passing yards, touchdowns and yards per attempt.

If the Cowboys believe that's the real Prescott, the team better lock him up now. If Prescott reaches the open market after another fantastic season, the Cowboys could get stuck in a bidding war the team can't win.



In this Nov. 17, 2019 file photo, Dallas Cowboys quarterback Dak Prescott (4) throws over Detroit Lions defensive tackle Mike Daniels during an NFL game in Detroit.

Mockery ID'd Jeff Christiansen working alongside Trubisky in a workout video posted earlier this week.

Christiansen is a former NFL QB who now runs the Chicago-based Throw It Deep Training Academy, which helps both quarterbacks and wide receivers.

On the Throw It Deep website, there are testimonies from some of his clients, like this quote from Garoppolo, "I would never be here without Coach Christiansen."

"Jeff worked to improve my footwork, which immediately improved my accuracy," said Cousins.

In addition to Christiansen, Trubisky has other new voices in the QB room to help him improve. The Bears brought in John DeFillippo to act as their new quarterbacks coach and Bill Lazor as the new offensive coordinator.

Adams to Bucs possible

The Tampa Bay Buccaneers already made two major splashes during the NFL offseason by acquiring quarterback Tom Brady in free agency and tight end Rob Gronkowski via trade. Could a third marquee addition happen soon?

New York Jets safety Jamal

Adams has requested a trade, according to reports. Seven teams would welcome a trade, and they are the Kansas City Chiefs, Baltimore Ravens, Houston Texans, Seattle Seahawks, San Francisco 49ers, Philadelphia Eagles, and the Dallas Cowboys.

The Buccaneers had one of the league's best defenses over the second half of last season, and they did a good job keeping most of their starters over the offseason. Tampa Bay was able to re-sign key defensive players including Jason Pierre-Paul, Ndamukong Suh, Andrew Adams and Shaquil Barrett (franchise tag). (AP/NBC)

TENNIS

From Page 20

restrictions/safety guidelines. The OTF was the first region to have recreational tennis and practice sessions back with its members—Australia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, and Guam among others—allowing players to return to the court early this month.

Before the pandemic struck, NMITA had one of the most consistent and successful

sports programs in the CNMI with some of its competitions scheduled at the AMP tennis courts. The last time a tournament was held at the facility was in February during the Coconut Tennis Classic.

Golf, swimming, and biking are among the sports-related activities allowed to resume, while soccer training sessions (physical fitness and individual drills) for the CNMI nationals teams have also been permitted.



SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Wataru Kadokura hits a backhand return to June Yu during their boys U14 finals match in the 2020 White Coconut Tennis Classic, which was the last tournament played at the American Memorial Park tennis courts before the facility was closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

COVID-19 RISK LEVELS		tinyurl.com/c19risk
9	• Bars • Big concerts	• Sports stadiums
8	• Gyms • Amusement parks	• Churches • Buffets
7	• Playing basketball • Public pools	• Schools
6	• Casinos • Restaurants – indoor • Playgrounds	• Hair salons, barbershops • Pontoon boat rides • Movie theaters
5	• Home dinner parties • Airplanes • Backyard barbecues	• Malls • Beaches • Bowling
4	• Dentist offices • Walking in busy downtown • Offices	• Doctor waiting rooms • Restaurants – outdoor
3	• Grocery stores • Camping • Hotels	• Golfing • Libraries, museums
2	• Walk, run, or bike with others	• Get car gasoline
1	• Restaurants – takeout	• Tennis

Dr. Matthew Sims, Dr. Dennis Cunningham, Dr. Mimi Emig, Dr. Nasir Husain. Based on risk factors including inside/outside, nearness to others, exposure time, compliance likelihood, and personal risk.

MICHIGAN LIVE PHOTO

A graphics on the assessment COVID-19 risk level of various activities shows tennis having the least risk.

Trubisky working with QB guru

Mitchell Trubisky is reportedly training with the same QB guru who helped Patrick Mahomes, Jimmy Garoppolo, Kirk Cousins, and Ryan Tannehill.

Erik Lambert of Sports

2-IN-1

From Page 20

there is a need to have a post COVID-19 risk assessment.

The OAA head, in a separate interview World Athletics (formerly International Association of Athletics Federations), said that there should be a risk assessment manager for any competition for the safety of athletes, coaches, support staff, and spectators.

"That may be the only way that we can really move forward," Sapong said, as he discussed with World Athletics' Bob Ramsak the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic to the Oceania area. "It's really good that World Athletics has issued the outbreak prevention outlines so we can work with local authorities to organize events."



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Runners compete in the 1,500m race during the 2018 Micronesian Regional Championships at the Oleai Sports Complex.



NBA worried
over COVID-19
spike in
Florida

PAGE 17

Saipan Tribune Sports

Balk in
baseball
talks, July
19 start off

PAGE 18



20 TUESDAY, JUNE 23, 2020

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

2-in-1 athletics competition suggested



HIROYUKI MORI
The CNMI's Nick Gross competes in the javelin throw event in the 2018 Micronesian Games in Yap. Next year's Micronesian Games will be held in the Marshall Islands in 2022 and it could double as the Micronesian Regional Championships.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Oleai Sports Complex track and field facility was supposed to host the 2020 Micronesian Regional Championships, but the event has been suspended indefinitely due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

With the COVID-19 pandemic causing scheduling problems to sports competitions, Oceania Athletics Association is looking at combining two competitions in one event.

OAA president and Northern Marianas Athletics secretary general Robin Sapong said the OAA Competition Commission sees the overlap in the schedule of events as a reason to consider hosting the Micronesian Regional Championships at the same time and venue as the Micronesian Games. The 2020 Micronesian Re-

gional Championships, which is held every two years, was supposed to take place on Saipan for the second straight time before it was suspended indefinitely due to the pandemic. The 2022 Micronesian Games, on the other hand, is scheduled to be held in the Marshall Islands between July 10 and Aug. 6.

Combining the Micro Games, which has athletics as one of its events, and the Micronesian Regional Championship, according to OAA may help address funding issues that will be a cause of concerns for countries which have commitments to other competitions outside the regional meets.

Besides the Micronesian tournaments, OAA-member nations like the CNMI are looking at participating in two world championships events in the next two years, the Melanesian and Polynesian championships, the Tokyo Olympics next year, and the Commonwealth Games

(for Nauru and Kiribati). Then there's the Pacific Mini Games that Saipan is supposed to host next year, but has been tentatively moved to 2022.

For the athletics events in the Pacific Mini Games and Micronesian Games, OAA is looking at working with organizers to have the two competitions' dates "very close to each other or as far apart as possible."

All these options are subject for negotiations among the concerned parties and Sapong was quick to point out that before any decision is made on the dates of the competitions,

See 2-IN-1 on Page 19



KRIZEL TUAZON

The parking lot at the American Memorial Park tennis courts has been designated to Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. employees.

Tennis group requests for reopening of AMP courts

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The Northern Mariana Islands Tennis Association has sent a letter to the COVID-19 Task Force and the National Park Service, requesting the reopening of the American Memorial Park tennis courts.

The task force is in charge of issuing and implementing safety guidelines regarding public activities, including sports, while the Guam-based NPS oversees the operations of the AMP, which has four tennis courts that the community utilize for recreation and competitive tennis before the COVID-19 pandemic forced the closure of the facility.

In appealing for the reopening of the AMP tennis courts, NMITA, through its

president Jeff Race, attached a copy of an article about the risk various activities pose to the spread of the coronavirus based on the assessment of four public health experts from Michigan.

The article, posted on the Michigan Live website, showed activities and their rankings in the risk level, 1 to 10, with the latter being the riskiest. The levels were determined through the venue (indoor or outdoor); proximity to others; exposure time; likelihood of compliance; and personal risk level.

Tennis got the lowest rank at 1, as it is usually played outdoors and only two (singles game) to four people (doubles) are inside the court and have significant distance away

from each other.

Besides the published assessment report, NMITA backed up its claim of resuming tennis activities in a safely manner by setting its own guidelines, including limiting entry to the courts to tennis players only. Signages will also be posted around the AMP tennis courts to remind players about the safety precautions against the COVID-19 virus, while activities will be limited to practices and no tournaments will be held.

When the AMP reopens, the NMITA hopes to join majority of Oceania Tennis Federation member-countries on the list of organizations that have resumed tennis activities with

See TENNIS on Page 19

